FRIDAY
February 21, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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# THE HINDU

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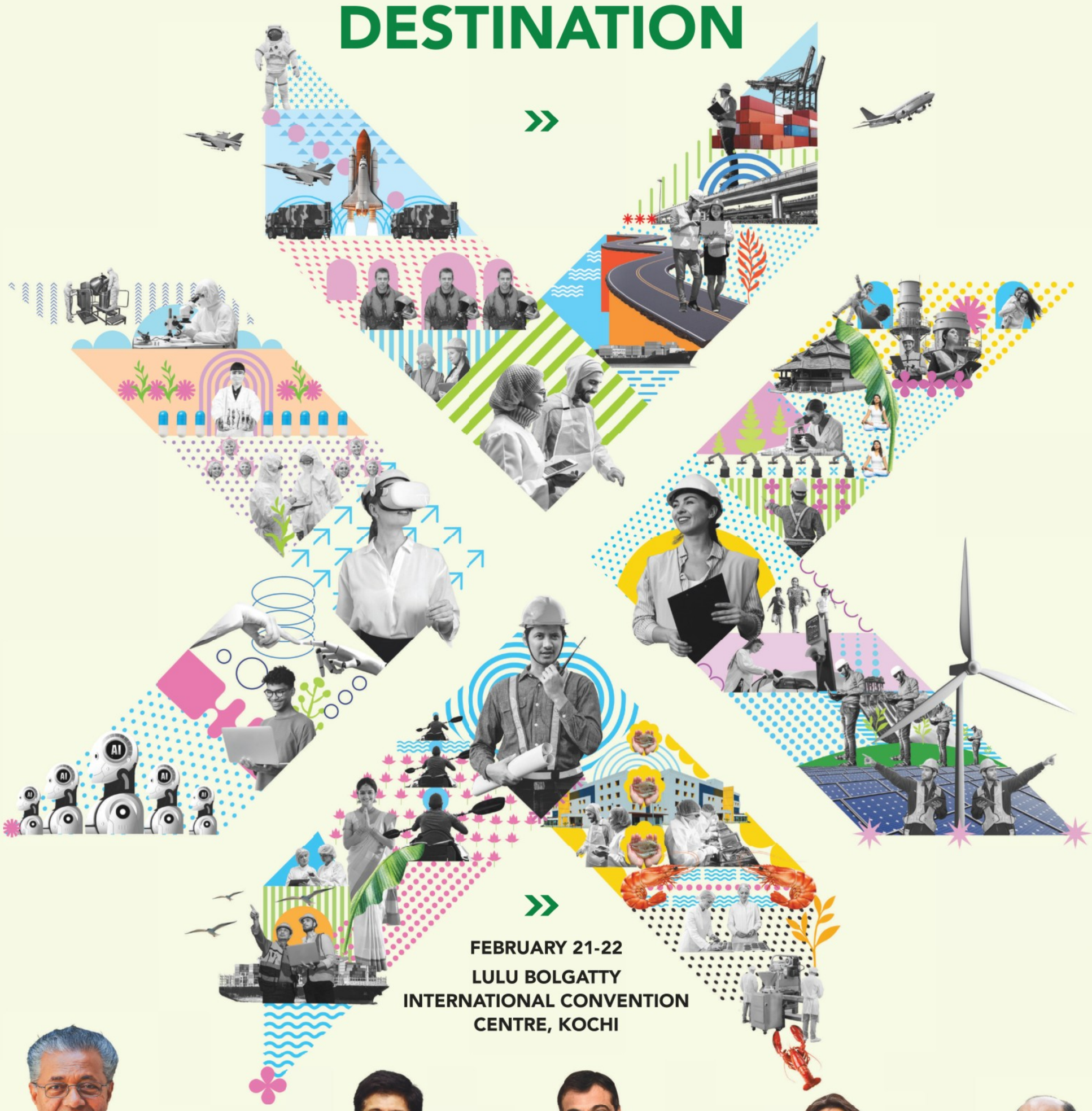

FEBRUARY 21-22
LULU BOLGATTY
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
CENTRE, KOCHI

Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan
Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala

Shri. Piyush Goyal
Hon. Union Minister of
Commerce and Industry

Shri. Nitin Gadkari
Hon. Union Minister of
Road Transport and Highways

Shri. Jayant Chaudhary
Hon. Minister of State (Independent Charge)
for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Minister of State for Education

Shri. P Rajeev
Hon. Minister for Law,
Industries and Coir,
Government of Kerala

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Invest Kerala Global Summit kicks off today, showcasing to the world the unique strengths of the State ranked as the top achiever in Ease of Doing Business. The two-day summit will bring together global investors, industry leaders and innovators, and will consolidate Kerala's position as a premier investment destination.

INVEST KERALA
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MANIPUR GOVERNOR'S APPEAL

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***Transforming Koraput's tribal food basket***

*Community-based plan is leading to change*

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SMOOTH START

**Gill powers India past Bangladesh**

SPORT » PAGE 17

## NEARBY

**Tunnel roads: DKS acknowledges challenges**

BENGALURU
At an event to discuss mobility issues in the city, the State government's tunnel project made its presence felt as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar himself acknowledged challenges in its construction. » PAGE 2

**MUDA case: HC reserves verdict on pleas**

BENGALURU
The High Court reserved its verdict on the petitions filed by CM's wife B.M. Parvathi, and Minister Byrathi Suresh, who questioned the legality of the summons issued to them by ED on illegal allotment of sites by MUDA. » PAGE 6

METROPLUS » PAGE 5

# SC stays Lokpal order on powers over HC judges

Special Bench terms top anti-corruption ombudsman's interpretation 'very disturbing' after it passed an order giving itself jurisdiction to investigate complaints against High Court judges

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a Lokpal order bringing High Court judges under its jurisdiction, terming the top anti-corruption ombudsman's interpretation "very disturbing".

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the January 27 Lokpal order, a Special Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, Surya Kant and A.S. Oka, three senior judges of the Supreme Court and Collegium members, said it impacted the independence of the judiciary.

The Bench, in a brief hearing, was offered assistance by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and B.H. Marlapalle even as Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta appeared for the Union government.

The Bench issued notice to the Centre, the Registrar of Lokpal and the complainant on whose plea the January 27 order was passed. The court listed the case on March 18. It injuncted the complainant from disclosing the name of the High Court judge in question and ordered the former to keep the contents of the complaint confidential.

Mr. Sibal said the court sorely needed to lay down the law on this issue. Mr. Mehta categorically submitted that High Court judges would never fall within the ambit of Lokpal.

The order of the Lokpal, chaired by a former Supreme Court judge, Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, was based on a complaint that an Additional High Court judge had influenced an Additional District Judge, and later another High Court judge, to decide in favour of a private company. It was alleged that the company had been a client of the judge during the latter's earlier years as an advocate.

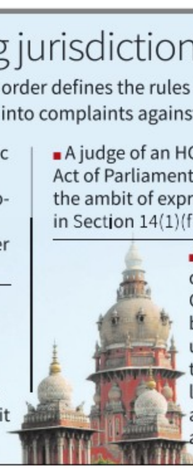
In a 13-page order, the Lokpal concluded that High Court judges were 'public servants' and came within the ambit of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act of 2013.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

### Redefining jurisdiction

Lokpal's January 27 order defines the rules and conditions under which it will inquire into complaints against High Court judges

- SC judges are public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act but are not public servants under the Lokpal Act
- The SC was 'established' by the Constitution. The HCs pre-existed the Constitution and are only 'recognised' by it
- A judge of an HC established by an Act of Parliament will come within the ambit of expression 'any person' in Section 14(1)(f) of the Lokpal Act
- There is a precondition to consult the Chief Justice of India before initiating, under Section 20 of the Lokpal Act, a preliminary inquiry into a complaint lodged against an HC judge



## Trade deal 'possible' with China: Trump

**Agence France-Presse**
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump suggested on Wednesday that a trade deal was "possible" with China – a key target in the U.S. leader's tariffs policy.

In 2020, the U.S. had already agreed to "a great trade deal with China" and a new deal was "possible", Mr. Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

One month into his second term in office, Mr. Trump has threatened sweeping tariffs on allies and adversaries alike – targeting China and neighbours Canada and Mexico, and the European Union – and using levies as his main policy tool for lowering the massive U.S. trade deficit. At the beginning of February, he slapped additional customs duties of 10% on all products imported from China.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

## Rekha Gupta takes over as 9th Chief Minister of Delhi

Narendra Modi with Rekha Gupta and other Ministers during the oath ceremony in Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

**Satvika Mahajan**
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Rekha Gupta took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of Delhi at the Ramlila Maidan on Thursday. A six-member Council of Ministers was also sworn into office in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders.

Ms. Gupta will handle key portfolios such as Finance, Revenue, Women and Child Development, Services and Vigilance, and other unallocated departments.

Ms. Gupta told mediapersons that her government will not waste a single day in fulfilling the promises made by the BJP to Delhi and will make it a 'Viksit Delhi', or a developed city.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 10

## Cabinet approves land for Cong. building in Hubballi at 5% of guidance value

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**The party wants to construct 100 offices in the State**

The Congress government on Thursday approved allotting a parcel of land in Hubballi for just 5% of the guidance value of the property to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) to construct a building.

The Cabinet, which met here, approved allotting 2,988.29 sq m of land belonging to the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, worth about ₹5.67 crore as per guidance value, for about ₹28 lakh.

The guidance value is about ₹19,000 per sq m and the market value is normally higher than the guidance value. According to the Cabinet agenda, the land has been sought by the KPCC to construct a district Congress office in Hubballi

Defending the allotment at 5% of the guidance value, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said similar allotments had been made by previous governments.

The KPCC is trying to construct its own buildings across the State, and Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar had said that construction would be taken up only in places where the land was owned by the Congress. The party wants to construct 100 offices in the State.

## *Final flourish*

**Welcome break:** A man walks down a snow-covered road in Shopian district of Kashmir, on Thursday. After nearly two months of an unprecedented dry spell, the Kashmir Valley received some rain and snowfall, raising hopes for improved water availability. IMRAN NISSAR

## Microsoft unveils new quantum chip

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Microsoft has announced a new chip, called Majorana 1, that it said showed quantum computing is "years, not decades" away, joining Google and IBM in predicting that a fundamental change in computing technology is closer than believed.

Quantum computing holds the promise of carrying out calculations that would take today's systems millions of years and could unlock important discoveries in medicine, chemistry, and aerospace, among others.

The biggest challenge of quantum computing is that its fundamental building block – called a qubit – is fast but difficult to control and is prone to errors. Microsoft said its new Majorana 1 chip is less prone to these errors than rival designs.

The chip has been in the works for nearly two decades. Its supposed fault-tolerant abilities come from the properties of an exotic subatomic particle called the Majorana fermion, which has been hard to find since it was first theorised in the 1930s.

Harvard University physics professor Philip Kim, who was not involved in Microsoft's research, called the chip an "exciting development".

However, some other independent experts have voiced concerns over the lack of conclusive proof that Majorana 1 works as Microsoft has claimed it does.

*(With inputs from agencies)*

## Non-BJP-ruled States in South India oppose UGC's proposed guidelines

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana reaffirmed their opposition to the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations, 2025, at a convention held here on Thursday.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who inaugurated the event, said the proposed guidelines could undermine India's federal structure by diminishing the role of State governments in higher education. The CPI(M) leader condemned the provisions allowing non-academics, including industry and public administration professionals, to be appointed Vice-Chancellors of State universities, calling the move politically motivated.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka echoed these concerns. Opposing the proposed minimum enrolment criterion of 3,000 students per institution, the Congress leader said it would adversely affect colleges serving backward areas.

Karnataka Higher Education Minister and Congress leader M.C. Sudhakar raised concerns over imposing foreign education models without considering India's diverse educational landscape.

Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister and DMK leader Govi. Chezhiaan said it was ironic that the States were being excluded from the appointment process while making them bear the financial burden of universities.

### Policy pushback

What each State said on the new guidelines

**Kerala:** Guidelines diminish State's roles, infringe legislature powers, and lower academic standards

**Telangana:** They undermine State autonomy, disadvantage marginalised students, and enforce unfair criteria

**Karnataka:** Guidelines impose foreign models, promote privatisation, and neglect economic accessibility concerns

**Tamil Nadu:** They exclude States from decisions, impose financial burdens, and centralise power

## SSLC exam from March 21, II PU March 1

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Scoring 35% marks in the SSLC annual examination is mandatory for students this year to pass as the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has reverted to the system that was in place before COVID-19.

During 2024, considering the high number of students who failed in SSLC exams, the board had resorted to normalisation by reducing the minimum pass marks to 25% and adding grace marks to help promote a large number of students.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Minister for the School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said that the SSLC results had fallen due to the implementation of various examination reforms, including web-streaming last year.

"Therefore, the State government had decided to enhance normalisation in the interest of students and reduced the qualifying marks from 35% to 25%. Grace marks had been increased from 10% to 20% in all subjects as a one-time measure," the Minister said. However, this year, the qualifying marks will not be reduced for any reason and grace marks will not be given for any subject, he added, saying it is mandatory for students to score 35% marks in all subjects to pass.

The first annual examination for SSLC students will be held from March 21 to April 4, and a total of 8,96,447 students, including 4,61,563 boys and 4,34,884 girls, have enrolled from 15,881 high schools across the State.

"Compared to previous year, this year, 15,238 students have registered for the II PU exam and 26,479 students for SSLC exam. The SSLC exam will be conducted in 2,818 centres and II PU in 1,171 centres.

To avoid malpractices, the examination process will be under surveillance through webcasting," said Mr. Bangarappa. He said adequate police security has been arranged for conducting the examination.

Measures will be taken under the provisions of the Education Act against those who encourage leakage of question papers and examination irregularities in all districts, he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

### Exam dates and other details

| | II PU | SSLC |
|---|---|---|
| Date of exams | March 1 to 20 | March 21 to Apr. 4 |
| Students enrolled | 7,13,862 | 8,96,447 |
| Number of colleges/schools | 5,050 | 15,881 |
| Number of examination centres | 1,171 | 2,818 |

# Indians are born clever but they should be ready to suffer

Indonesian coach Agus Dwi Santoso feels today's badminton is taxing both mentally and physically and only those who can master both aspects will survive

SUDHAKARA JAIN

INTERVIEW

## AGUS DWI SANTOSO

**N. Sudarshan**

Agus Dwi Santoso has a ruthless streak in him. The noted Indonesian badminton coach, who otherwise has a baby-faced charming look, comes from a school of thought that believes that a player should be ready to die - not quite literally - on court in the pursuit of excellence. Playing through pain is non-negotiable for sustained success.

In the present-day environment, there will be many who will not be in agreement, but Santoso has results to back his methods and his nation's rich badminton history to make his voice heard. He has coached the elite in Thailand, Korea, Indonesia and India (including P.V. Sindhu and K. Srikanth) and also the likes of his countryman Hendrawan, whom he guided to the singles silver medal at Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the World Championship title in Seville in 2001.

Santoso is also from a country that revolutionised badminton in the 1960s, first through Rudy Hartono who mesmerised the world with his power and speed and won seven straight All England titles from 1968 to 1974, and then via Liem Swie King, a three-time winner. To this day, Indonesia has elite players like Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medallist Anthony Ginting and reigning All England champion Jonatan Christie.

Now, Santoso is in India, heading the high-performance coaching program at Game Fit Academy in one of Bengaluru's south-east suburbs. In an interview with *The Hindu*, the 59-year-old speaks of about the talent pool in India, the badminton culture back home, the way the modern game is shaping up and what India needs to do to be consistently good at the world stage. Excerpts:

**How do you assess the talent in India?**

There is a lot of talent. But only a few can become world beaters. How? The culture has to change. Indians are born clever. But they are not able to manage pain, sorrow and suffering. In China, you start training from six years old. But in the West, may be at 10 or 11, and if the player or the parent sees talent, then they become serious. No, it is too late. You have to start early.

**How is the pool different in India from Indonesia?**

Indonesia is a little bit like China. It's because China copied from Indonesia. Back in the day, three important people moved from Indonesia to China because of political reasons. Those three, including Hou Jiachang and Tong Sin Fu, built Chinese badminton. Tong Sin Fu was Lin Dan's coach. In terms of basic training, Indonesia and China are better. In India, it was not very good. But with better coaches, there is improvement now.

**What makes Indonesian badminton so successful?**

Badminton in Indonesia is like basketball in USA. So many people play the game and become champions. Kids see them and want to play. It's like a cycle and it's part of the culture. Football is still No. 1 and badminton No. 2. But badminton makes our country proud at the World level and at the Olympics. So, many parents and children want to play.

**How is the training regimen in Indonesia? Is it centralised?**

Normally, it is taken care of by clubs and there are so many of them. Players come into the junior program from there... U-12, 13, 15, 17 and so on. Then they come into the National Centre, of which there is only one. Players from all clubs ultimately come there. In India, it is a bit different, because multiple clubs and academies can become National centres. And players train separately too. But in Indonesia, you will stay in one building. China is also similar.

**Do you feel the Indonesian set-up is better?**

Yes. When you go to represent your country, you have become "pure Indian" or "pure Indonesian". It's the same in India too, no doubt. They all represent their country. But to me, it is not as strong a feeling like in Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea. The owner of the academy may be like 'this is my player, even if he goes to an international tournament'. In Indonesia and China, it's not like that.

**Is it challenging to coach youngsters in India compared to other countries?**

Badminton is all about thinking... like chess, tennis. It is not like athletics or swimming where you have a good body, some thinking, good technique and that's enough. In badminton, even if you have everything, if your thinking is wrong or not straight, it is tough. You can become a champion. But may be just once. You won't be a legend. In India, if you become a one-time champion, you can become *somebody*. I am sorry to say that.

**What does it take for that shift in mentality?**

When I train kids here, there are some problems. Many players want the shortest route to success. They do not see it like a process. It is challenging. If you are at an academy, you should [aspire to] be the best professional there. Indians are clever. The body is like Europeans. But the thinking has to change. A young player should be ready to go through the suffering.

**Badminton is becoming global and there are champions from many countries. How do you feel about this pattern?**

It is good for the sport. But how has it become like this? Because of the Olympics. It all started from 1992. So every country tries to build for that. We see so many players from Indonesia, India, Korea, China etc., but Spain, Germany and France don't have that many. In our countries, the systems are better and we produce many players. However, they [Europe] have one or two special players, like Carolina Marin. With Olympics, their budgets have increased. Quality coaches can be hired.

**How has the sport changed?**

I feel that ever since we shifted to the 21-point format (from 2006), it is more tough. You cannot make a mistake. If you do, the opponent gets a point. In the 15-point format, if you make a mistake, it is only a service over. In the 21-point format, as you cannot make a mistake, you get mentally tired. Normally, one game is 20 minutes. But tough opponents can last 30 or 40 minutes. If there is a second game, then it is one hour for two games. So we do training for two and three hours. It's just like boxing. It was Muhammad Ali I think who said 'I train for 110-120 rounds for 10 rounds in the tournament'. The basics are the same. Training must be more. In tournaments, there will be strategising and thinking, and that can make you tired. If a match goes to the third game, just two things matter - either the player is better physically than you or more clever.

**Where do you see world badminton going? Is it more attacking or more defensive?**

Now it has become both. Attacking depends on the quality of the player. Defence is about how you can program a player. It is all about how you can transition from one to the other. It is also about who lasts longer, and about the mind. You may be a good attacking player, but if you are not strong in the mind, then... A good example is Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen, the gold medallist at 1996 Atlanta. He was 32 [sic: nearly 31]. Back then, only those in their 20s were winning. But how did he win? He was mentally very strong. If he was focused, and felt okay on the court, it was very difficult to get even one point from him. There were so many good players. But he won. So how to beat such players? You have to attack their minds.

**What about Viktor Axelsen?**

Easy to say. He has a body like a European player, but his mind and agility are like an Asian player. So he is complete. In badminton, if you are clever and more efficient, you can play until you are 34-35 years old. A long time ago, in the Liem Swie King era, it was very physical. The coaches back then also trained more for the physical part. But after you turn 25, you cannot upgrade the physical aspect. You can just maintain. Axelsen does a lot of technical activity and not too much of the physical.

**Finally, who is the best player you have trained?**

Hendrawan! He won the Sydney [Olympics] silver (2000) and the 2001 World Championship. He was not a special player and didn't have strong fitness. He had tonsillitis, and in elementary school he had an operation. If he trained hard, the next day he would be sick. But how did he become a world-beating player? His mentality was different. He was from a rich family but when his father had a financial problem, he stopped badminton. He stopped badminton for a second time when his father fell sick. He wanted to make his father happy but was not physically up there. But he had the motivation and willpower which were different from others.

## Karnataka Forest Department
## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS TERRITORIAL SUB DIVISIOIN KALABURAGI,

Email Id Address: acfkalaburgit@gmail.com

IFT No.: ACFT/KLB/E-Tender/Civil/CR- /2024-25 Dated: 19-02-2025

### :: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE ::

**(Through KPPP Second Edition Portal) is invited.**

This is to inform the public that tenders are invited Foresty / Civil works during the year 2024-25 on the portal (website link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) in the second version of the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from 19/02/2025 to 01/03/2025 till 04:00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on 03/03/2025 after 04:00 PM. Financial bids of successful tenders in the technical bid will be opened on 05/03/2025 after 04:00 PM.

For more details: You can call or visit the office during office hours on weekday. Phone: +91 9035960000

**Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests Territorial Sub Divisioni Kalaburagi.**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/984/KSMC&A/2024-25

## GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL.

**Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com**

**IFT No. PWD:DK:B:Tender:2024-25:4077 Date: 17-02-2025.**

### INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents on **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. **Head of Account : KKRDB Micro Social Akshara Avishkar-SCP/2023-24, Micro Instutitional Akshara Avishkar-SCP/2024-25 & 2025-26, Micro Social Akshara Avishkar-TSP/2023-24 & 2024-25, CMDQ Instutitional - General/2024-25, CMDQ and General/2024-25, Micro Social Akshara Avishkar-SCP/2024-25, CSR Fund - Deposit Contribution/2024-25 and 2059-80-053-00-200(Nonplan)/2024-25.** Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** 09 Works (Work Indent No: 18146, 17796, 17773, 17767, 17768, 0066, 17764, 18040 & 18552). Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **03-03-2025 Time 16.00,** Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **04-03-2025 Time 16.30.** Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **06-03-2025 Time 11.00.** Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount Rs. 105.00 Lakhs & Rs. 860.00 Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

**DIPR/Koppal/769/KSMCA/2024-25** **Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal**

## Government of Karnataka
## (DEPARTMENT OF AGRIL; MARKETING)
## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE,

Gandhi Gunj, BIDAR – 585 403, E mail: apmcbidar@gmail.com

No.AMD/APMC/BDR/DEV/1103/2024-2025 Date:20-02-2025

### -: E-TENDER NOTIFICATION:-

APMC., Bidar hereby invites Tender for the following Development work from eligible e-portal registered PWD contractors in Two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 through e-procurement portal. The contractors have to submit all tender related documents, itemized rates etc. by uploading through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website in standard documents KW-4.(with latest amendments)

1) Last date for the submission of filled in E-Tender applications: **21-03-2025 upto 5.00 PM** 2) Date of opening of Technical bid : **24-03-2025 at 4.30 PM,** 3) Date of opening of Financial bid (if Possible): **25-03-2025 at 11.00 AM,** 4) Place of opening of E-Tender bid. Office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Gandhi Gunj, Bidar.

1) Name of work : CONSTRUCTION OF COVERED AUCTION PLATFORM IN FRONT OF SHOPS AT HALLADIKERE FRUITS & VEGETABLE SMY OF APMC BIDAR UNDER ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SCHEME 2024-25, 2) Amount put to Tender(in Lakhs) : 2,05,80,820/- Exclusive Of GST, 3) EMD Amount (in Rupees): 3,08,712/-, 4) Time limit (Excluding monsoon period) : 175 DAYS (Excluding monsoon), 5) Eligibility of the Contractors/ Firms : Registered PWD Class-1 Civil Contractor, 6) Tender fee : (KW-4) As per E- Portal.

Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Gandhi Gunj, Bidar-585 403 during working days and hours or through website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Secretary, A.P.M.C, Bidar** **Sd/- Administrator, A.P.M.C, Bidar**

DIPR/Bidar/417/KSMC&A/2024-25

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owners, (1) Smt. Geetha G. Gore, (2) Smt. Seetha D.N., (3) Sri. Prakash D.N. and (4) Smt. Prabha D.N. If anybody has any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within Seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/ disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/ disputes will be entertained.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing number 151, New BBMP P.I.D. No. 6740312960, Ward No.125 – Marenahalli, 1-A Cross, Central Excise Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru – 560 040, measuring East to West – 40 feet and North to South – 30 feet, in all measuring about 1200 sq. ft. with a residential building thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Road;
West by : Site No. 142;
North by : Site No. 150; and
South by : Site No. 152.

Sd/- **Rahul .M,** Advocate
No. 640, New No. 40, 22nd Main Road, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 041. Mob.: 9538003963
E-mail: rahul.mallikarjun@gmail.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our Client **Smt. GEETHA PRIYA K.,** intends to purchase residential property bearing BDA Site No.1606, Property ID No.6000075129 situated in the Layout formed by the Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru, Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th Block, measuring East to West 12.00 mtrs., North to South 18.00 mtrs., totally measuring 216.00 Sq.mtrs., from the Vendor, Sri. **KANTI KUMAR BETALA** S/o M.G. Betala, aged about 69 years, residing at No.85, 14th C Cross 2nd Stage, 2nd Phase, West of Chord Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru - 560 086, who represents to be the absolute owner in possession of the said property having allotted by the Bengaluru Development Authority vide Allotment Letter No.BDA/DS-1/1606/BLK-IV/BSK.6/2002-03, dated: 01.10.2002, having executed Absolute Sale Deed dated: 09.11.2004, registered as Document No.BDA-1-09191-2004-05, before the Office of the Additional District Registrar, Bengaluru Development Authority, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever, in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objections if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, and ought to reach us at the address given below within a period of 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that none other than the Vendor above, have any right, title, interest, or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client shall be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing BDA Site No.1606, Property ID No. 6000075129, situated in the Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore at Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th Block, measuring East to West 12.00 mtrs., North to South 18.00 mtrs., totally measuring 216.00 Sq.mtrs., together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.1607, West by : Site No.1605, North by :Road, South by : Site No.1609.

**MITHUN GERAHALLI A**
**GERAHALLI LAW OFFICES**
**No.9, 2nd Cross, CSI Compound, (Behind CSI Compound Park) Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027. Ph. No.080 2227-4590**
Date: 20.02.2025


Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU thehindu businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU


## Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

**E Tender Notice**
**E-Tender No: CMPM-25**

Dy Chief Mechanical Engineer/MAINT, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender through Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed firms based on single packet system for the under mentioned work. **(1) Name of work with its location and completion period. :** Revamping of Cleaning Machine 1 & 2 and Peening Machine 1 & 2 as per Schedule of work at RWP, Bela. **(2) Approx. cost of the work :** ₹ 83,78,000/- **(3) Bid Security to be Deposited :** ₹ 1,67,600/- **(4) Tender closing date and time :** 12.03.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **(5) Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s)/ bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender.

**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/MAINT/RWP, Bela**
**RWP/CPRO/Advt./2024-25/103**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our Client **Smt. GEETHA PRIYA K.,** intends to purchase residential property bearing BDA Site No.1606, Property ID No.6000075129 situated in the Layout formed by the Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru, Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th Block, measuring East to West 12.00 mtrs., North to South 18.00 mtrs., totally measuring 216.00 Sq.mtrs., from the Vendor, Sri. **KANTI KUMAR BETALA** S/o M.G. Betala, aged about 69 years, residing at No.85, 14th C Cross 2nd Stage, 2nd Phase, West of Chord Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru - 560 086, who represents to be the absolute owner in possession of the said property having allotted by the Bengaluru Development Authority vide Allotment Letter No.BDA/DS-1/1606/BLK-IV/BSK.6/2002-03, dated: 01.10.2002, having executed Absolute Sale Deed dated: 09.11.2004, registered as Document No.BDA-1-09191-2004-05, before the Office of the Additional District Registrar, Bengaluru Development Authority, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever, in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objections if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, and ought to reach us at the address given below within a period of 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that none other than the Vendor above, have any right, title, interest, or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client shall be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing BDA Site No.1606, Property ID No. 6000075129, situated in the Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore at Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th Block, measuring East to West 12.00 mtrs., North to South 18.00 mtrs., totally measuring 216.00 Sq.mtrs., together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.1607, West by : Site No.1605, North by :Road, South by : Site No.1609.

**MITHUN GERAHALLI A**
**GERAHALLI LAW OFFICES**
**No.9, 2nd Cross, CSI Compound, (Behind CSI Compound Park) Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027. Ph. No.080 2227-4590**
Date: 20.02.2025

**IN THE COURT OF XI ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU**
**P & SC No. 461/2024**

**BETWEEN:**

**1. Sri. Rashojit Vivek Kumar S** S/o Late. T.V. Sekharan Aged about 39 years, (residing at:# 742, 8th 'B' Main, 21st Cross, 7th Sector, HSR Layout/ Bengaluru South, 560102.

**2. Smt.Krithika.S** D/o Late.T.V.Sekharan, W/o Rahul Jagannathan, Aged about 35 years Presently residing at 1408, Wellington Place, Matawan, New Jersey, USA - 07747 Now at #742, 8th 'B' Main, 21st Cross, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru South, 560102. **PETITIONERS**

**AND**

**NIL. ...RESPONDENTS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the above named as made Petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 371 & 372 of Indian Succession Act-1925 for the Grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners, in respect of schedule mention below. The below mention schedule as held by **Late.T V Sekharan & Late.T K Venkataraman** father and grandfather of Petitioners herein who expired on 06.06.2004 and 22.12.2006 respectively.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 11.03.2025 at 11.00 a.m. in forenoon to show cause against the Petitioners. failing wherein the appearance will be heard and considered Respondents as Nil. THE SCHEDULE OF THE STOCKS AND SHARES Unit: GRASIM INDUSTRIES LTD

Share Holder Name: **TV Sekharan & TK Venkataraman Folio No: T10551, Certificate No:3125351, Cert.Shares:265**

Given under my hand & seal of the court, this **14th day of February 2025.**

**By Order of the court,**
**ASST.REGISTRAR,**
**CITY CIVIL COURT, BENGALURU.**
**S.M.Dayanand Patil M/s Patil Law Chambers**
ADVOCATES
No. 12/4, 1st Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Neharu Nagara, Bangalore-560020


THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

## GRADUATION DAY CELEBRATED

Auden Public School, Girinagar, celebrated their Graduation Day with grandeur, marking a significant milestone for their students. The event was graced by Chief Guest Swami Narayananda Saraswati from The School of Ancient Wisdom, Devanahalli, Bengaluru. Mementoes were presented to the graduates, honouring their dedication and achievements. Swami Narayananda Saraswati's presence added a spiritual and motivational touch, inspiring students as they embark on new journeys. The school extended their best wishes to the graduates for success and prosperity in their future endeavours, making the occasion a memorable and meaningful celebration.

## VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF THE INTERACT CLUBS

Mahila Seva Samaja hosted the Valedictory Function of the Interact Clubs 'Brainstorm and Harmony Parent Club' – Rotary Club Bangalore Cantonment (RCBC). Chief Guest Rotarian Srikanth K.P., Youth Service Director, RCBC, praised the clubs for their dedication to innovative activities and fundraising for Thalassemia patients. He suggested future initiatives such as Career Guidance and Gadget De-addiction programmes. Student office bearers presented their annual reports. The Theatre Club members performed impactful street plays on Plastic-Free Earth and 'Dasha Keerthi Daithya', which were well-received by the public.

## GRADUATION CEREMONY

National Public School, ITPL, celebrated a momentous milestone for Grade 12 students as they marked their achievements and stepped into new beginnings. Chief Guest Dr. Reshma Ganesh, CBSE City Coordinator, graced the ceremony, which blended recognition, gratitude, and inspiration. The event featured the lighting of the lamp, student perspectives, the School Hymn, the Oath-Taking Ceremony, and a nostalgic trip 'Down Memory Lane'. CEO Dr. Chaitra Harsha and Director Principal Ms. Vandana Sanjay encouraged students to embrace challenges and excellence. The school extends their best wishes to the graduates for a future filled with success, purpose, and limitless opportunities.

**For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai: Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in**


## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client proposes to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder from it's owner Mr. **B.N. Ramegowda S/o Ninge gowda @ Linge gowda** and his child namely Baby **B.R. Hanisha,** residing at No. 43, 2nd Cross, near I.S.E.C, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore 560072, if any persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence, within seven days from the date of this publication and objections/ claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claimants/objections.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that the piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing vacant Site No.05, Old V.P. Khata No. 487, New BBMP Katha No. 6321 /487/05, formed out of converted Sy. No. 5/4, (converted from agricultural to non agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order No. BDS. ALN. SR (NA) 58/94-95, dated 05/07/ 1995, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) situated at Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently under jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 60 feet, totally measuring 2400 Sq.ft. and bounded on: **East by:** Site No.04; **West by:** Site No.74; **North by:** Private Property; **South by:** 30' feet Road.

**Sd/- R.K. AMARNATH**
Advocate & Consultant
Off. #7, 1st Floor, Burgal Mutt Cross Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore - 560004.
Mob.: 9845131939

13.02.2025 Bangalore

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients intending to purchase the property from **Sri.P.R.Dwarakanath** in respect of Property bearing **Site No.1261, Sarakki Layout 1st Phase, (LIC Plot), Sector -III, 27th Main, 7th Cross, JP Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru - 560078,** PID No.57-24-1261, BBMP Ward No.179 (Shakambari Nagar, Bengaluru), measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet, total measuring 2400 Sq.ft., along with Ground and First floor, with RCC roofed building with all civic amenities.

Any person or persons having/asserting any right title or interest/claims or intending to oppose the purchase in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **Ten days** from the publication of Notice hereof with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained and my client will proceed with the purchase of the of the said property.

**Y.Sowmya Yadav, Advocate**
No.83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P.Nagar 2nd Phase, Near J.P.Nagar Police Station, Bangalore-560078.
Contact No 9916343921.

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**Tender Notice No. 19-CWM-UBLS-2024-25**
**Dated : 13-02-2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

| Name of the Work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Maintenance of 7200 Nos of Bio toilet tanks i.e. Dismantling, Cleaning, Repair and Re-fitment at CRWS, South Western Railway, Hubballi through outside agencies by calling Open e-Tender through IREPS. | Rs. 81,93,600/- |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:30 Hrs on 07-03-2025**

**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**

**Deputy Chief Workshop Manager**
PUB/799/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

## Office the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC
**PWD, Bangalore 560001**

**No. EIC/PWD/40/PRAMC/2024-25/1317 Date: 19.02.2025**

### TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Tender Notification for one building work in Bangalore, Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPP portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 20.02.2025, 05:30 PM Onwards.

**Sd/-**
DIPR/CP/5210/AKAR/2024-25 **Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru.**

## कार्यालय, नगर परिषद, दुमका
**e-mail – dumka.nagar.parshad@gmail.com**

### ॥ निविदा रद्द हेतु सूचना ॥

कार्यालय द्वारा निकाली गई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – UDD/DNP/05/2024-25 PR 326606 District(24-25)#D को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।

प्रशासक,
नगर परिषद, दुमका

PR 346836 District (24-25)_D

## Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank. Across India.

**Asset Recovery Management Branch,**
1st Floor, FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009.
**Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/22955929(AGM)**
**E-Mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com**
**Website: https://karnatakabank.com**
**CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128**

## PUBLIC E-AUCTION
## NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 14.03.2025

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is"and "As is what is" basis on 14.03.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

**The details are as under:** Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **13.03.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/ Co-Obligants and Loan Account No. | Balance O/S Rs. Future Interest From + Costs | Possession Date Possession Type | Description of the Property/ies | Reserve Price (Rs.) | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. | Auction Time | Incremental Value of the Bid | Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **I) (1) Mr. Venkatesh A K,** S/o Mr. A V Krishnama Raju, **R/at :** No.9, 02 Prabhu Building, 15th Cross, 6th Temple Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003, **(2) Mr. Raghu A K,** S/o Mr. A V Krishnama Raju, **R/at :** No. 2, 8th Main, "Sri Sai Balaji Layout", IOB Bank Lane, Kodigehalli Main Road, Balaji Layout, Bengaluru-560092. **II) (1) M/s Sai Infratech,** a Partnership Firm represented by its Partners **a) Mr. Raghu AK, b) Mrs. Parimala T, (2) Mr. Raghu A K,** S/o Mr. A V Krishnama Raju, **(3) Mrs. Parimala T,** W/o Mr. Venkatesh AK, **All are addressed at :** No. 28th Main, IOB Bank Lane, Kodigehalli Main Road, Balaji Layout, Bengaluru-560092. **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) PSOD A/c No. 9087000600003901 (2) PSOD A/c No. 9087000600004201** | **Total Rs. 1,93,19,076.44 [(1) Rs. 58,33,028.20 01.10.2024 + (2) Rs. 1,34,86,048.24 01.10.2024]** | **30.05.2024 Physical** | All that part and parcel of the **3 BHK Residential Flat bearing No. 12 (No.112 as per Board)** in the ground floor of the Apartment known as **"MULTI DIAMOND"** constructed on converted land bearing **Sy. No. 30/8A & 30/8B, (Old Sy. No. 30/8), BBMP Khatha No. 1519/30/8A & 8B,** having super built up area of **1830 sq feet** and with **UDS Share of 891 sq feet** over the land measuring 36 guntas along with one covered car parking slot in the stilt floor, situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru-560092 belonging to **Mr. A K Raghu. Boundaries of Property as per deed/actual: East By:** Property belonging to K Ravindra Kumar Chowdary, **West by:** Property belonging to K M Narayanapa, **North by:** Remaining portion of the same property measuring 11 guntas retained by members of vendors, **South by:** 40 access left in the property belonging to the 1 member of the vendors and other private properties. **Boundaries of Flat: East by :** Open to Sky, **West by :** Door Entrance, **North by :** Lift, South by : Open to Sky. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude:13.052428,77.579203** | **Rs. 99,00,000/-** | **Rs. 9,90,000/-** | **10.50 AM to 11.10 AM** | **Rs. 1,00,000/-** | **Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru - Sadashivanagar A/c No: 9083500200004101 IFSC:KARB0000908** |
| 2 | **(1) Mrs. Kalavathi,** W/o Sathisha, **(2) Mr. Sathisha,** S/o Ramachandrappa, **Both are addressed at:** No.85, 5th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru – 560039 **Loan A/c No.: TL A/c No.9597001600007201** | **Rs. 1,36,44,967.08 13.02.2025** | **28.12.2023 Constructive** | All that part and parcel of the property bearing **Khata No.80, Property No.152900402001800133,** measuring **4800 Sq.ft** [East to West – 120 feet and North to South – 40 feet], with Residential Building constructed thereon, situated at Manchanayakanahalli Village and GP, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District, belonging to **Mrs.Kalavathi. Boundaries of property as per Document : East :** Road. **West :** Thoti Inam Land, **North :** Property of Rangaswamy (Earlier owned by Muttappa), **South :** Property of Ramachandrappa. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude:12.834066,77.416589** | **Rs. 2,20,00,000/-** | **Rs. 22,00,000/-** | **10.30 AM to 10.50 AM** | **Rs. 1,00,000/-** | **Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch : Bengaluru – Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout A/c No: 9593500200004101 IFSC:KARB0000959** |
| 3 | **(1) Mr. Puvi Kumar,** S/o Mr. Suka Kumar, **Addressed at :** #25, 1st Cross, Sindhi Colony, JC Road, Behind VISL Building, Bengaluru-560002, **(2) Mrs. Jagadeeshan Guhapriya,** W/o Mr. B. Kanagaachalam, **Addressed at :** Flat No.108, IHFD Apartment, No.11, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V Puram, Bengaluru-560004, **(3) Mrs. Shanmuganathan Ramya,** W/o Mr. Puvi Kumar, **Addressed at :** #25, 1st Cross, Sindhi Colony, J C Road, Behind VISL Building, Bengaluru-560002, **(4) Mr. B. Kanagaachalam,** S/o Mr.U.P Balasubramanian, **Addressed at:** Flat No.108, IHFD Apartment, No.11, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V Puram, Bengaluru-560004. [M/s Kavi Protein & Feed Pvt Ltd as the borrower had availed the above mentioned credit facilities which is now under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process] **Loan A/c Nos.: (1) PSOD A/c No.0627000600109301 (2) PSTL A/c No.0627001800040501 (3) PSTL A/c No.0627001800042101** | **Total Rs. 38,98,21,027.92 [ (1) Rs. 31,99,53,437.92 + (2) Rs. 3,93,13,097.00 + (3) Rs. 3,05,54,493.00 01.02.2024 ]** | **03.01.2025 Physical (SL.NO. 1 & 2)** | **Item No.1:** All that part and parcel of **Residential Flat bearing No.108,** in the first floor of the multistoried building known as **"IHFD Apartments",** having super built up area of **1392 Sq.ft** along with 2.6348% (i.e 568.85 Sq.ft) of undivided share, right , title and interest in the land measuring **21,590 Sq.ft** and one covered car parking lot (#108), constructed on property bearing No.11 (Old No.111), situated at Vasavi Temple Road, V.V Puram, Bengaluru, belonging to **Mr. B. Kanagaachalam and Mr. Puvi Kumar S. Boundaries of Land as per Document : East :** Private Road, **West :** Vasavi Temple Street, **North :** M. Krishna Rao Scindia Road, **South :** Site bearing No.112 (Old), **Boundaries of Flat : East :** Open to Sky, **West :** Corridor & Flat No.106, **North :** Flat No.107, **South :** Open to Sky. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.950356'N, 77.576801'E.** | **Rs. 1,57,00,000/-** | **Rs. 15,70,000/-** | **11.00 A.M to 11.20 A M** | **Rs. 1,00,000/-** | **Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch- Bengaluru – Minerva Circle A/c No: 0623500200004101 IFSC:KARB0000062** |
| | | | | **Item No.2:** All that part and parcel of **Residential Flat bearing No.107,** in the first floor of the multistoried building known as **"IHFD Apartments",** having super built up area of 1392 Sq.ft along with 2.6348% (i.e 568.85 Sq.ft) of undivided share, right , title and interest in the land measuring 21,590 Sq.ft, constructed on property bearing No.11 (Old No.111) , Municipal No.11/14, PID No.50-5-11/14, situated at Vasavi Temple Road, V.V Puram, Bengaluru, belonging to **Mr. B. Kanagaachalam. Boundaries of Land as per Document : East :** Private Road, **West :** Vasavi Temple Street, **North :** M. Krishna Rao Scindia Road, **South :** Site bearing No.112 (Old). **Boundaries of Flat : East :** Open to Sky, **West :** Corridor & Flat No.105, **North :** Open to Sky, **South :** Flat No.108. **Property Location: Latitude & Longitude: 12.950356'N, 77.576801'E** | **Rs. 1,55,00,000/-** | **Rs. 15,50,000/-** | **11.30 A M to 11.50 A M** | | |

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

**(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule 8/Sub Rule (1) of Rule 9 of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors).**

**For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. https://karnatakabank.com under the head "Regulatory and others".**

The E-auction will be conducted through portal www.auctionbazaar.com on **14.03.2025** at above mentioned time with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **www.auctionbazaar.com** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **13.03.2025**) from **M/s Auction Bazaar, 7-1-28/1/A/1 Park Avenue 1, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Secunderbad, Telangana, India, 500016, Contact Mobile No. 8885035382, E-mail : disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

**Date : 18.02.2025**
**Place: Bengaluru**

**Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer, Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

## From Page One

### SSLC exam from March 21, II PU March 1

"Students should follow the dress code prescribed by educational institutions and the directions of the Supreme Court," he added.

To improve results of both examinations, a 20-point programme has been formulated and monthly meetings have been held at the Chief Executive Officers of zilla panchayath level, he said.

**II PU exam**

The annual examination for II PU students will be held from March 1 to March 20 and 7,13,862 students, including 3,35,468 boys, 3,78,389 girls, and five transgenders, have enrolled from 5,050 PU colleges across the State.

A total of 2,91,959 students have enrolled for science stream, 2,29,308 for commerce, and 1,92,595 for arts this year.

Mr. Bangarappa hinted about the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) learning at government schools and PU colleges and said, it is likely to be announced in the Budget. "We have requested Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to prioritise recruitment of teachers and infrastructure of schools in the Budget. We have asked for 5,000 school buildings and appointment of 15,000 teachers," he said.

# At 'Namma Raste' event, DKS acknowledges challenges in construction of tunnel roads

'Issues like land acquisition, financing, and technical aspects need to be addressed'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

At an event to discuss mobility issues in the city, the State government's controversial tunnel project made its presence felt as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar himself acknowledged challenges in its construction.

Inaugurating the three-day 'Namma Raste' event held at the BBMP head office on Thursday by the civic body, in association with World Resources Institute (WRI), he said, "The tunnel road project has been proposed to mitigate traffic issues in the city. But the tender has not yet been called because issues like land acquisition, financing, and technical aspects need to be addressed. The double-decker system has been implemented on new metro routes, but it was not possible on routes where the metro already exists."

Visitors going through the Interactive Exhibition at 'Namma Raste Kaipidi 2025', which brought together planners, policymakers, and communities to drive solutions for a better urban future, at BBMP head office on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

**Tunnel Road Project**

The State government has proposed an ₹8,043 crore tunnel road project connecting Hebbal and Silk Board Junction, which has drawn criticism from Opposition parties over flaws in its planning, alignment, and feasibility.

Its detailed project report (DPR), which typically takes nine to 12 months to complete, was finalised in just three months. The project involves constructing twin-tube tunnel roads along the North-South axis (Hebbal to Silk Board, spanning 18 km) and the East-West axis (K.R. Puram to Mysuru Road, covering 22 km). It was also approved by the State Cabinet in August last year.

Speaking on the state of city roads, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "Bengaluru cannot be changed in two to three years. Even God cannot do that. It can be changed only when proper planning is done and executed well."

During the event, *Namma Raste Kaipidi*, an illustrated handbook that outlines best practices in road design, construction, operation and maintenance, was also released. The standard operating procedures (SOP) for the roughly 12,878.78 km of roads within BBMP limits has been outlined in the handbook.

**Kannada sidelined**

Meanwhile, the event drew criticism for its minimal use of Kannada in exhibition posters and displays, which were predominantly in English. V. Manumurthy, one of the attendees, criticised the organisers for failing to adhere to the city's language norms. "The BBMP mandates that at least 60% of signage in the city must be in Kannada, yet they themselves ignored Kannada at their own event," he said.

**Criticism**

The issue quickly gained political traction, with the opposition BJP attacking the Congress government over its alleged disregard for Kannada. Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, R. Ashok, took to X (formerly Twitter) to criticise the Congress for sidelining Kannada at the event.

"The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) repeatedly printed Kannada grammar errors in its question papers, effectively murdering the language. They shut down Kannada schools and neglected Kannada education. And now, at the 'Namma Raste, Namma Hemme' event held at the BBMP head office's Dr. Rajkumar Glass House, Kannada has been completely sidelined," Mr Ashok posted.

Reacting to the controversy, Mr. Shivakumar, said, "I was the first to instruct that the Kannada-English ratio should be maintained at 60:40. If anyone has made a mistake in this regard, action will be taken," he affirmed.

## 'Remove all overhead OFCs'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has been instructed to remove all overhead optical fiber cables (OFC) and ensure their underground installation, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced at the 'Namma Raste' event held at the BBMP head office on Thursday.

"We had waited all this time, assuming the OFC providers would make alternative arrangements or go underground. Since that has not happened, strict instructions have now been issued. Once all the cables are cut, they will be forced to comply," Mr. Shivakumar said, signalling a stringent approach to resolving the issue

## 'Traffic police are leveraging tech to ease congestion'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**M.N. Anucheth says police staff are being given training to ensure better traffic management**

Bengaluru's traffic police are increasingly turning to technology and artificial intelligence to manage the city's growing congestion, even as staff shortages remain a challenge, said M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru.

He was speaking at the three-day 'Namma Raste' event organised by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in association with the World Resources Institute (WRI) at the BBMP head office on Thursday. Mr. Anucheth highlighted that while traffic personnel are not sufficient in number, technology is being used to augment their efforts. "There is a lot of training being given to our staff to ensure better traffic management," he said.

**12 dense corridors**

He noted that Bengaluru has 12 high-density corridors where new tech-powered traffic signals have been introduced to improve vehicular movement. "Technology helps us manage traffic efficiently, allowing our personnel to focus on enforcement," he added.

The traffic police also deal with various road-related issues beyond congestion, he said. "For instance, every day, around 70 vehicles break down on the ORR, adding to traffic woes. Apart from traffic regulation, we monitor potholes, processions, tree falls, and any other road-related disruptions," Mr. Anucheth said.

He emphasised the need for better mobility solutions, stating that improving public transport is key to addressing traffic congestion. Citing the recent Aero India event as an example, he noted that the deployment of over 130 buses helped reduce traffic significantly.

"With proper coordination, we ensured smooth movement with minimal congestion at Aero India event," he said.

# Special bus, metro services for WPL

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation will operate special bus services for spectators attending the TATA Women's Premier League 2025 (WPL T20) matches at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The matches are scheduled for February 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and March 1. The services will be adjusted as per traffic needs, running till the matches conclude, according to a release. The designated routes include SBS-1K (Kadugodi Bus Station via HAL Road), G-2 (Sarjapura), G-3 (Electronic City via Hosur Road), G-4 (Bannerghatta National Park), G-7 (Janapriya Township via Magadi Road), G-10 (R.K. Hegde Nagar to Yelahanka via Nagavara and Tannery Road), 317G (Hosakote), and 13 (Banashankari).

In addition, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has announced an extension of metro train services for matches. Services on the Purple and Green Lines will run late, with the last trains from terminal stations departing at 11:20 p.m. and the final train from Majestic station departing at 11:55 p.m. Commuters can use QR tickets, smart cards, National Common Mobility Cards, and tokens for metro travel, the release said.

# KIMS principal among three shortlisted for RGUHS V-C post

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The screening committee headed by M. Ramachandra Gowda has shortlisted and recommended the names of three people, including Dr. Bhagavan B.C., principal of Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS).

Dr. Ravikumar B.C., Principal of Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences and Dr Nalini G.K., Professor & Head of the Department of Pharmacology of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute are the other two people shortlisted. According to the sources, the decision was taken in the screening committee meeting on February 18 and a report was submitted to the State government.

Dr. Ravikumar is facing corruption allegations and is under investigation.

If the Governor finalises Dr. Bhagavan's name, it will be the first time that the principal of a private medical college will be appointed as the V-C of RGUHS, a move that has drawn criticism from prominent personalities in the field of medical education.

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# Delay in NPKL work: Suresh Kumar walks out of meeting

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

S. Suresh Kumar

Opposition MLA and former Urban Development Minister S. Suresh Kumar walked out of the meetings of the Petitions Committee of the State Legislature, protesting the explanation given by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) over the delay in the work at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL).

In a long post on social media, Mr. Suresh Kumar said when quizzed over the delay in provision of basic infrastructure at NPKL, nine years after the sites were allotted, "a BDA official said that I was being misled by those who have bought 20x30 sites, which angered me, pushing me to walk out of the meeting".

This was in protest over the "misinformation" by the BDA and in defence of the interests of the site allottees struggling to build their dream homes, he said. Mr. Kumar further pointed out that in 2023, BDA had taken a year's time to complete work at NPKL and failed to meet the deadline and was categorised by Real Estate Regulatory Authority also as a defaulter.

Over the past two meetings, BDA Commissioner N. Jayaram had not come despite being summoned by the committee. He appeared before the committee on Thursday and defended BDA.

Sources said the committee has now decided to do a spot inspection of both NPKL and Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout to see for themselves the progress of the civil works taken up by BDA in both the layouts.

# Five who did bike stunts on flyover held

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The East division police have stepped up vigil to track down a gang of two-wheeler riders who, armed with lethal weapons, were seen performing bike stunts on the K.R. Puram flyover, creating a fear psychosis among road users.

In a swift action, the east division police arrested a gang of five who were performing bike stunts and flashing swords in public.

The entire act was videographed and shared on social media.

Usually, the traffic police put up checkpoints at strategic locations of ring roads and flyovers. However, the accused would perform bike stunts during the wee hours. The video put up on social media went viral promoting East Division police to analyse videos and track down the accused identified as Nayeen Pasha, Arafatg, Sahil, Nanjamat and Adnan. The others involved in the act are on the run.

# 3 who were recording video on track hit by train, killed

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Three youths were killed after they were hit by a passenger train while recording videos on the track near Siddanayakanahalli on the outskirts of the city on Wednesday.

The deceased have been identified as Rahul, 18, Bikash, 20, and Lallan, 24. The deceased were from different parts of Uttar Pradesh and worked as carpenters in Doddaballapura. According to the police, the three were recording videos for social media when they were hit by an approaching passenger train and killed on the spot.

The jurisdictional Yeshwanthpura Railway police have registered an Unnatural Death Report.

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**PERSONAL**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, SHAHLA** Yazdani, W/o. Ravi Abraham, Residing at No. 225/6, Golden Jubilee Offr Qtr Artillery Road, Agram Post, 560007, Have Changed My Name From Shahla Yazdani to Shahla Abraham, Vide Affidavit Dated 20.02.2025 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

**PERSONAL**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**I, Mr** Rajpal, Father of service No 18018827N HAV Rupesh R/a Village: Jhojhu kalan, P.O: Jhojhu Kalan District: Charkhi Dadri, Tehsil: Charkhi Dadri State: Haryana, Pin: 127310, Hereby declare that My correct name is Rajpal and not Rajpal Singh, I shall be known and called as Rajpal for all legal and future purposes, Vide affidavit Dtd: 14-02-25, before Notary Uday Kumar. K- Bangalore-32.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I Apoorva** Pradeep D/O, Manjunath Subbarao R/o 564, 1st floor, 6th Cross, 4th Main, Bcmc Layout, Raghuvanahalli, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to Apoorva Maniunath.

**I, PRUTHVI** Shiva Prakash, R/at No.49, 12th Main, Srinagar, Bangalore-560050, have changed my name from Pruthvi Shiva Prakash to Pruthvi Vishnu Ganesh vide affidavit dated 19/02/2025 sworn before Notary L. Shankaranarayana, Bengaluru.

**IN–KA57856061677362X,** I, Aditya Shanmugam S/O, Chanapatna Gopalaiah Shanmugam R/o #223, 6th Main, 1st Cross, Vidyagiri Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru–560072 have changed my name to Aditya Shanmugam Athreya vide affidavit dated 19.02.2025, sworn before K.C. Shashikala, Advocate & Notary (Reg. No. 10197), Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**

We, 1) **NAGA LAKSHMI ELURI**, 2) **ESHWAR REDDY ELURI,** both R/at No. 202, Pavan Apartment, Bank Avenue Colony, Babusapalya Main Road, Horamavu, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that after our marriage, that **BOTCHU NAGA LAKSHMI** would henceforth be known as **NAGA LAKSHMI ELURI**, vide affidavit dated 19th Feb. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **Y.R. CHANDRASHEKAR** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, AKSHARA.V,** D/o S.Vijayaraj D.O.B:01-06-2009 presently residing at No.28, First floor, Bhagath Singh Road, Lake View Garden Lay-out, Channasandra, Kalkere,Horamavu, Bangaluru,PIN:560043 Karnataka State, shall henceforth be known as **AKSHARA VIJAYARAJ**
-AKSHARA.V

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **Smt. SMITHA** D/o Late Srinivas, aged about 38 yers, R/at No. 8/18, 3rd 'A' Cross, Vivekananda Nagara, Katriguppe main Road, Banashankari III Stage, Bangalore-560 085 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **H.U. LAKSHANYA** to **LAKSHYA SRI**, henceforth she shall be known and called as **LAKSHYA SRI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19th February 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **RAVI KUMAR .V** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **USHA KOGANUR** W/o Gangadhar Koganur, residing at No. 122, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, BS 1st Stage, Srinivasanagar, Bengaluru-560 050, hereby announce that I have legally changed my name to **USHA G KOGANUR** upon my marriage with Gangadhar Koganur accordingly, my name has already been changed as **USHA G KOGANUR** in my Identity Cards, viz Aadhar Card, PAN Card & in Driving Licence. And all the remaining documents and records will also be reflected this change henceforth, vide affidavit dated 1-6-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.G. VENKATARAMU** at Bangalore.

**TENDERS**

**CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY**
**Materials Management Division**

e-Auctions are invited for the disposal of Plant and Machineries and Scrap materials in "as is where is" condition. e-Auction will be conducted by M/s. MSTC Ltd. For further details, / corrigendum, if any, visit
www.mstcecommerce.com
www.chennaiport.gov.in
Chief Mechanical Engineer

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone, BBMP Office Building, CA No.3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru - 560060.
No: EE/KEN/TEND/19/2024-25 Date: 20-02-2025
**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of Works detailed below.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| | **TWO COVER SYSTEM - (CALL-1)** |
| 1 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Navilu Nagara and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 26, Doddabidarakallu of Doddabidarakallu Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 2 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Basaveshwara Badavane and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 26, Doddabidarakallu of Doddabidarakallu Sub Division. **Approximated Amount of Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.51, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 3 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Karihobanahalli and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 26, Doddabidarakallu of Doddabidarakallu Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.51, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 4 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Reddy Layout and Mathrushree Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 26, Doddabidarakallu of Doddabidarakallu Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.51, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 5 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Chethan Circle and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 27, Lingadheeranahalli of Doddabidarakallu Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 6 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Doddanna Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 27, Lingadheeranahalli of Doddabidarakallu Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 7 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Veerabhadreshwara Nagara and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 28, Herohalli of Herohalli Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.51, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 8 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Benagalurappa Badavane, Srinidhi Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 28, Herohalli of Herohalli Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.51, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 9 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Muddiyanapalya, Raghavendra Badavane, Ganesha Farm, Muneshwara Badavane and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 28, Herohalli of Herohalli Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.51, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 10 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Prasanna Layout and Vigneshwara and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 28, Herohalli of Herohalli Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.51, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 11 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Nisarga Layout, HMT Layout, Upkar Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 29, Ullal of Herohalli Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |
| 12 | Improvements of Roads and Drains at Basappa Layout, AGS Layout, Basaveshwara Badavane, Neelakanteshwara Badavane and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 29, Ullal of Herohalli Sub Division. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 399.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,99,500/-** |

**Calendar of Events: 1)** The Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 4.00 PM on 24-02-2025. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **27-02-2025 at 3.00 PM in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone, Bengaluru - 560098. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **03-03-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Bids: **04-03-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP.**

# The silent victims of cancer: the indirect consequences on children

While policies focus on reducing direct treatment costs, easing the indirect burden — through caregiver aid, educational support, and employment protections — is equally crucial. These interventions improve treatment adherence, mental well-being, and safeguard the next generation's opportunities

Vid Karmarkar

When Aarav an 18-year-old from Mumbai, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2018, he asked his mother, "Why me?" His dream of becoming an investment banker had shattered with the diagnosis. But he didn't just survive – he thrived. I heard him speak at an event organised by a leading cancer hospital in Mumbai for International Childhood Cancer Day, which falls on February 15.

Unlike most teenagers of his age, whose hands are busy scrolling through social media, while one of Aarav's hands received chemotherapy, the other clutched his accountancy books. He didn't let cancer slow him down. Instead, he conquered it – emerging as an All India topper in the Chartered Accountancy exams. But not all childhood cancer stories see a happy end.

Aarav reminded me of Meena, a 10-year-old from Pune, whose story took a different turn. Her mother, a domestic help, was diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer. Her father, an autorickshaw driver, worked hard to ensure Meena got an education, believing it was her path to a better future. But cancer rewrote their fate. Her mother could no longer work, and her father, needing to care for her, lost days of income. With their paltry earnings dwindling further, they had no choice but to pull Meena out of school. Unlike Aarav, she was not lucky – cancer did not just take her mother's life; it trapped Meena in a cycle of generational poverty.

A recent National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) report found that childhood cancers (0-14 years) account for 4% of all cancer cases in India, while adult cases near a million annually – and these numbers are expected to rise. This leaves lakhs of children vulnerable to the hidden financial toll of cancer. Whether battling the disease or affected by a parent's illness, children are the silent victims.

## Protecting the next generation

Children are the future of a nation. To build a strong nation, we need an educated and skilled workforce. Education is also a pathway to their economic empowerment. But cancer disrupts this journey.

Loss of opportunity for education is just one example of the indirect costs of cancer treatment. Photograph used for representational purposes only GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

When a child or parent is diagnosed with cancer, schooling takes a hit. Low-income families are often forced to pull children out due to financial strain, while older siblings in such households take on caregiving or work to supplement income, limiting their future prospects.

For instance, Sridevi, a second-year college student from a low-income family from Hyderabad, had to work as a fast-food crew member and tutor school children to cover her father's escalating oral cancer treatment costs. This impacted her academic performance and took a toll on her mental health.

Disruptions in education have a cascading effect. Studies show that children who drop out of school due to financial distress face lower lifetime earnings and higher rates of economic instability. In the context of cancer, the disease not only devastates the present generation but also risks trapping the next generation in a cycle of hardship.

## The other indirect costs

Loss of opportunity for education is just one example of the indirect costs of cancer treatment. Such costs include non-medical expenses and financial losses from diagnosis and treatment. These can be as debilitating as direct medical and non-medical costs.

Loss of income is one of the most significant burdens, as patients may need extended leave or even lose their jobs. Family caregivers, often spouses or children, may also reduce work hours or quit jobs entirely, worsening financial strain.

**Many insurers offer plans with riders covering cancers. They provide income replacement or lump-sum payouts to offset lost wages, caregiving costs, and daily expenses. However, they are often excluded from standard policies, have strict criteria, or come with high premiums**

Travel and accommodation costs add to the burden, especially for patients from rural areas who must frequently travel to treatment centres in cities. Daily living expenses rise due to special diets, hospital visits, and caregiving demands, often requiring household help or costly services.The psychosocial and mental health impact further escalates the strain, with many patients and caregivers needing counselling or therapy, which is often unaffordable.

## Insurance and government schemes

Government-backed health insurance programmes such as Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) have played a crucial role in reducing direct medical costs for cancer patients in India. These schemes provide financial coverage for inpatient costs, alleviating the immediate financial stress on affected families. But the indirect costs of treatment are insufficiently addressed.

Disability riders in insurance plans provide crucial financial support for cancer patients facing long-term disability. Many Indian insurers offer term plans with these riders, covering severe accidents and major cancers such as breast, lung, and liver cancer. They provide income replacement or lumpsum payouts to offset lost wages, caregiving costs, and daily expenses. However, they are often excluded from standard policies, have strict eligibility criteria, or come with high premiums, limiting access for those who need them most.

To ease non-medical expenses, Indian Railways and Air India are offering discounted fares for patients and caregivers, while Himachal Pradesh and Haryana provide free bus travel for cancer patients. Additionally, monthly pension schemes in states such as Haryana, Tripura, and Himachal Pradesh are helping mitigate the financial burden of indirect cancer costs.

## The way forward

While policies focus on reducing direct treatment costs, easing the indirect burden – through caregiver aid, educational support, and employment protections – is equally crucial. These interventions improve treatment adherence, mental well-being, and safeguard the next generation's opportunities.

Ensuring equitable education for cancer-affected families requires empathetic, multi-level action – from government policies and CSR funding to state income support and school-level interventions. Recognising that cancer brings not just medical but also financial and emotional distress, policies must address these broader challenges. Simple yet impactful measures – use of calculators, extra coaching, extended deadlines, free school meals, and mental health support – can make education more inclusive. By integrating such interventions, we can prevent cancer from becoming a lifelong barrier to economic and educational equity.

*(Dr. Vid Karmarkar is the founder of Canseva Foundation. vid.karmarkar@gmail.com)*

### THE GIST

Childhood cancers account for 4% of all cancer cases. This leaves thousands of children vulnerable to the financial toll of cancer. Whether battling the disease or affected by a parent's illness, children are the silent victims

Education is a pathway to economic empowerment for children. When a child or parent is diagnosed with cancer, families are often forced to pull children out of schools, while older siblings take on caregiving or start working, limiting their prospects

Disruptions in education have a cascading effect. Children who drop out face lower lifetime earnings and higher rates of economic instability. Cancer not only devastates the present generation but also risks trapping the next generation in a cycle of hardship

## HUMERUS

# AI-powered tools generate real time insights into antibiotic resistance

Ramya Kannan

A team of researchers from Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) have come up with AI-powered data integration and predictive analytics tools to understand patterns of antibiotic resistance in real time, enabling agencies to act on them speedily.

As part of a collaboration between IIIT-Delhi, CHRI-PATH, Tata 1mg, and Indian Council of Medical Research scientists, the AI-driven tool AMRSense has been deployed to use routine data that is generated in hospitals to generate accurate and early insights on antimicrobial resistance at the global, national, and hospital levels.

In a paper, 'Emerging trends in antimicrobial resistance in bloodstream infections: multicentric longitudinal study in India,' published in *The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia*, authors Jasmine Kaur, Harpreet Singh, and Tavpritesh Sethi show results from analysing six-years of data from 21 tertiary care centres in the Indian Council of Medical Research's AMR surveillance network retrospectively, establishing relationships between antibiotic pairs and the directional influence of resistance in community and hospital-acquired infections.

"There is a shared mechanism of resistance between antibiotics, we already know. Usually to do that, people use genomics, but that's an expensive proposition," explains Dr. Sethi. "We have proposed a way, which is inexpensive because it uses these routine data sets from hospitals. We show that by using routine data effectively, we can discern relationships between different antibiotics pairs and the direction AMR is taking – whether it is rising or not. Say, for instance, if resistance to one specific antibiotic is going up, some months down the line, it is likely that resistance to an antibiotic pair might also shoot up. With these connections, we generated actionable evidence."

Dr. Sethi adds: "We have tried to go beyond the traditional way of looking at AI - asking how it can enable better decision-making for a given patient in a clinical setting or a public health setting. We think AI can also be used to understand AMR stewardship and surveillance aspects, from the hospital level, upwards. Hospitals already routinely send out patient isolates, for example, blood, sputum, urine, pus, etc., for culture sensitivity testing in order to make informed decisions on treatment courses. We are saying that these reports can be used to construct AI-based pipelines and methods that can lead to AI-driven or AI-enhanced antimicrobial stewardship."

The AMROrbit Scorecard that the team developed also won an award at the 2024 AMR Surveillance Data Challenge. Can we use these scorecards to make it more timely? Dr. Sethi explains: "It plots the orbit of resistance, say of every hospital or department, alongside a global median of resistance and a global rate of change. So around those global values, how well does a department, a hospital, or a certain country fare? That is what the scorecard will be able to provide real time data for."

The ideal quadrant for any hospital or country to be in is where there is low baseline resistance and low rate of change as well, said Jasmine Kaur, of IIIT-D. Orbits spiral in or out, but the AI tool can offer information facilitating timely interventions that can bring it to a desirable range of resistance.

How accurate and reliable are these AI models? "In our paper, we have shown that our models did capture the trends as observed in the period we collected data for. However, unless we have future data, we can't really say, like, for example COVID-19 upended things, right? The only evidence we have currently is that globally it seems that our models are capturing the increasing rate of resistance in various studies."

Clinicians can make informed decisions based on the visual image that OMROrbit provides them using the data generated by the hospital, explains Ms. Kaur. It has been proven that it can augment ongoing surveillance at various levels. Various kinds of comparisons can be done using the tool, she adds. For instance, if it is a chain of hospitals, then the tool can be used to compare AMR rates between different departments, cities and centres across the country. "The only possible limitation would be in circumstances and settings that do not have consistent, granular surveillance data. Then the AI model will not make sense. This could occur in countries where surveillance data is not digitally accessible.," she adds.

"We know there are other environmental factors such as anibiotics being used as growth factors in the poultry industry or leachates in the soil, that can also lead to AMR. The ideal would be, if at the public health level, we should be able to use the data we have from the hospitals, matching it with antibiotic sales, and community-level data, and study the environmental factors too. We hope to do that soon, Dr. Sethi explains.

*(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)*

**For feedback and suggestions** for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

# ‘15 years since fire, needle has moved a little, not very far’

## Fire safety audits of high rises became a norm following PIL plea filed by Beyond Carlton

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In the 15 years since he tragically lost his 22-year-old son Akhil Uday in the fire accident at Carlton Towers, Uday Vijayan, who took to activism campaigning for fire safety through the civic group Beyond Carlton, said the “needle had definitely moved a little, though not very far”.

“Some of the rules got changed because of the public interest litigation we filed in the High Court in 2010. Regular inspections and fire safety audits of high rises became a norm following our PIL. The number of calls we get from apartment associations and RWAs seeking guidance on fire safety measures is an indication of the need to comply and increase awareness. Moreover, most new-age office spaces in the city now have strict fire safety protocols, which we put down to the insistence of multinational companies. There is more openness in the government to partner with civil society organisations over fire safety,” he said.

**Fire Safety Plan**

But a lot of gaps remain. For instance, Beyond Carlton prepared a five-year fire safety blueprint for Bengaluru in 2018, he added.

“There has been some action on around 60% of the points we had recommended, but others still need focus. This blueprint ended in 2023 and we have been in talks with the Fire and Emergency Services for a second version of the same. But we need to take a step ahead and make a holistic fire safety plan bringing all other stakeholders like electricity supply companies (escoms), civic bodies, and local planning authorities under the umbrella of disaster management. This practice should be institutionalised as well,” Mr. Vijayan said.

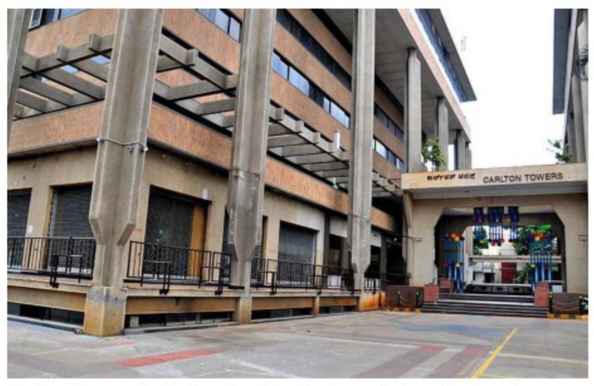
Beyond Carlton prepared a similar Comprehensive Fire Safety Plan for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack in Odisha, where the plan was housed under disaster management bringing all stakeholders to the table.

Beyond Carlton has conducted training sessions for several first responders like estate managers in apartment complexes, and those who are at risk of fire accidents like linemen of escoms, etc.

“Going ahead, we want to work more on the treatment and rehabilitation of victims with burn injuries. The infrastructure is woefully scarce in the state. We have been advocating for a burns ward in every district and more burns wards in Bengaluru,” Mr. Vijayan said.

# Trial drags on but Carlton Towers is back in business

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU



Carlton Towers today is a bustling business hub again, housing a bank, several software firms, and a coworking space, among others. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Those whose lapses led to the fire accident that left nine people killed and over 70 injured at the seven-storeyed Carlton Towers on HAL Airport Road on February 23, 2010, have not been brought to book yet, 15 years after the incident.

While the initial probe pointed fingers at the building’s management, a report by the Karnataka State Electrical Inspectorate later pointed out that aluminium cables laid improperly to supply power to a software company Technomic Pvt. Ltd. caused the fire in the ducts which spread to other floors. Panic set in and most of those who died were killed either due to asphyxiation due to dense smoke or when they jumped from multiple floors to the ground in panic.

**Chargesheet against 20**

Jeevan Bima Nagar Police filed a chargesheet against 20 persons in 2010. However, many challenged them being included as accused in the High Court and some got relief. This led to inordinate delays in the start of the trial in the case. Finally the trial began in the sessions court only after the pandemic in 2022. “The witnesses are being examined. The pace of the trial has been very slow. Even 15 years after the incident, we are nowhere near justice,” Uday Vijayan, who lost his son in the fire accident, lamented.

Meanwhile, Carlton Towers is finally back to business. The building was closed for seven years after the accident and reopened only in 2017. Despite slashing rents to below market levels to attract establishments to set up shop again, the occupancy rate was abysmally low.

Carlton Towers today is a bustling business hub again, housing a bank, several software firms, a coworking space among others. The occupancy rate has crossed 80%.

Sanjay M., President, Carlton Towers Owners Association, said that he bought one unit in 2020 and expanded to three units now. “The fire accident was unfortunate. But there is nothing wrong with the building and all fire safety measures are in place,” he said.

Joseph Thomas, secretary of the association, said that Carlton Towers is now one of the most fire-safe buildings as over and above the rules prescribed, they have taken several measures beyond the mandate to ensure there is no repeat of the unfortunate incident ever again. “The building has been constructed with fire safety in mind. Not that there were no setbacks when the accident occurred. But following the accident, we have taken care to bring the building on par with the approved plan. For instance, a unit was broken in the middle to create a corridor as it was shown in the approved plan,” he said.

“Being Carlton Towers, we need to be doubly sure of fire safety and we have embraced it as a culture in how the building is run. We have never compromised on fire safety. Fire and Emergency Services too conducts regular inspections and we have complied with all norms,” Mr. Thomas said.

Further, to address the electrical wiring in the building, from where the fire emanated on in 2010, Carlton Towers has done away with cabling and installed busbar electrical wiring.

“We have also sealed off each floor so that even if fire erupts in one floor, it doesn’t spread to other floors like it did in 2010,” Mr. Joseph said.

# ‘NCRB data shows dip in fire accidents and fatalities, but it needs to be cross-checked’

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The number of fire accidents and fatalities have drastically declined in India since 2015, data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows, but Beyond Carlton, a civic group formed to work on fire safety following the fire accident at Carlton Towers in the city in February 2010 that claimed nine lives and caused injuries to over 70 persons, argued that the data needs to be ‘cross-checked’. Beyond Carlton released a report ‘Fire Safety in India: A Beyond Carlton Perspective’, in Bengaluru on February 15, to mark the 15th anniversary of the tragic fire accident.

According to the report, while the country reported 27,976 fire accidents in 1999 and only 7,566 accidents in 2022, the fatalities due to fire accidents have also come down from 27,561 in 1996 to 7,435 in 2022. The downward trend starts from 2015.

“While the total deaths due to accidents is on the rise between 2015 and 2022, the number of fire accidents and deaths show a decline. While this is good news on the face of it, there is a clear need to double-check on the data collection process and assumptions made. Triangulation using other data sources, like burn registry, hospital data and Fire Department Call Center Data, will help us confirm the progress that the numbers indicate,” the report states.

The report also pointed out other anomalies: the number of injuries reported seems to be ‘extremely low’ compared to the number of deaths and while the number of cooking gas connections more than doubled since 2014, fire accidents involving cooking gas saw a steep decline. The report shows that over the last four years, 125 persons died in hospital fires in the country, but NCRB doesn’t categorise hospital fires separately.

Beyond Carlton pointed out that the latest data of fire stations and fire personnel available with the government of India dates back to 2018, which shows a severe shortage of resources.

“NCRB collects data from the police, and not the fire services. There is a need for credible data on fire accidents in the country. Data on fire calls, incident and action taken, needs to be digitised and available on dashboards,” said R. A. Venkitachalam, trustee, Beyond Carlton.

“The nature of fires we fought in the past 25 years would be very different from the fires to come, and we need to be ahead of the curve to effectively fight them... We need to invest in fire safety infrastructure, including personnel and fire stations, fire-fighting equipment. For instance, there are now fire detection AI-powered cameras,” he said.

### Fire accidents in India

- There were 27,976 fire accidents in 1999, but only 7,566 in 2022
- Fatalities down from 27,561 in 1996 to 7,435 in 2022
- Nearly more than half of the fatalities were women
- Electrical short circuits and cooking gas accidents were top occurrences
- In 2022, there were 3,979 cases of fire accident in residential buildings and only 219 in commercial buildings
- Between 2014 and 2022, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat accounted for 75% of all fire accidents
- On an average, Karnataka accounted for 12% of fire accidents during this period

**Recommendations of Beyond Carlton**

- Decentralise fire safety with more involvement by the public
- Make National Building Code 2016 binding on all States
- Publish data on fire calls, incidents, and action taken on digital dashboards
- Each city should have a five-year fire safety plan
- Agencies like power utilities, civic body, and local planning authorities must be involved and held accountable
- Strengthen compliance and enforcement
- Establish more skin banks and wards for fire accident victims

Source: NCRB

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FRIDAY, FEB. 21** | |
| RISE | 06:39 |
| SET | 18:27 |
| RISE | 00:42 |
| SET | 12:12 |
| **SATURDAY, FEB. 22** | |
| RISE | 06:39 |
| SET | 18:27 |
| RISE | 01:37 |
| SET | 13:03 |
| **SUNDAY, FEB. 23** | |
| RISE | 06:38 |
| SET | 18:27 |
| RISE | 02:32 |
| SET | 13:59 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 33 | 22 |
| Mysuru | 33 | 15 |
| Bengaluru | 34 | 18 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**33°C** Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**34°C** The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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# Tutor held for beating minor student

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Kothanur police on Thursday arrested a 19-year-old tutor of a madrasa for allegedly assaulting an 11-year-old student as punishment for creating nuisance in the class.

The alleged assault took place in a madrasa at Hegde Nagar, which houses around 100 girl students to teach Arabic, on February 16. The accused is the son of the couple running the madrasa. According to the police, the incident was captured on CCTV camera. The accused summoned the girl to the office and assaulted her, the police said. The girl’s parents filed a complaint with the committee and later with the police. Based on it, the accused, Mohammed Hasan, was arrested.

# IFS officer gives pep talk to civil service aspirants

**Anupama Mani**
BENGALURU

A.V. Surya Sen SUDHAKARA JAIN

“The civil service examination (CSE) is not a scary picture, but it is a part of life. But the preparations should start from the day you are born,” said A.V. Surya Sen, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru.

In his keynote address at Christ University, during a guest lecture organised by The Hindu Civil Services Aspirants Club in association with Shankar IAS Academy on Thursday, he advised students, “You already have 20 years of exposure and you have to refresh it and put perspectives into your preparation.” Mr. Sen said, “Keep your eyes and ears open and listen to people. Develop the analytical power to differentiate.” He encouraged them to study subjects not just for exams, but for life, making learning an enjoyable experience rather than something that only demands hard work.

“If you decide to take this path, devote your attention to it completely. But even if you do not clear the exam, you should still be in a position to serve this country in another way,” he added.

Being an IFS officer, Mr. Sen specifically spoke about environmental responsibility, stating that as society evolves and resources are plundered the environment gets affected.

“What have we done to make conscious decisions to change the situation of the environment? It is our responsibility as citizens to protect it for future generations,” he emphasised.

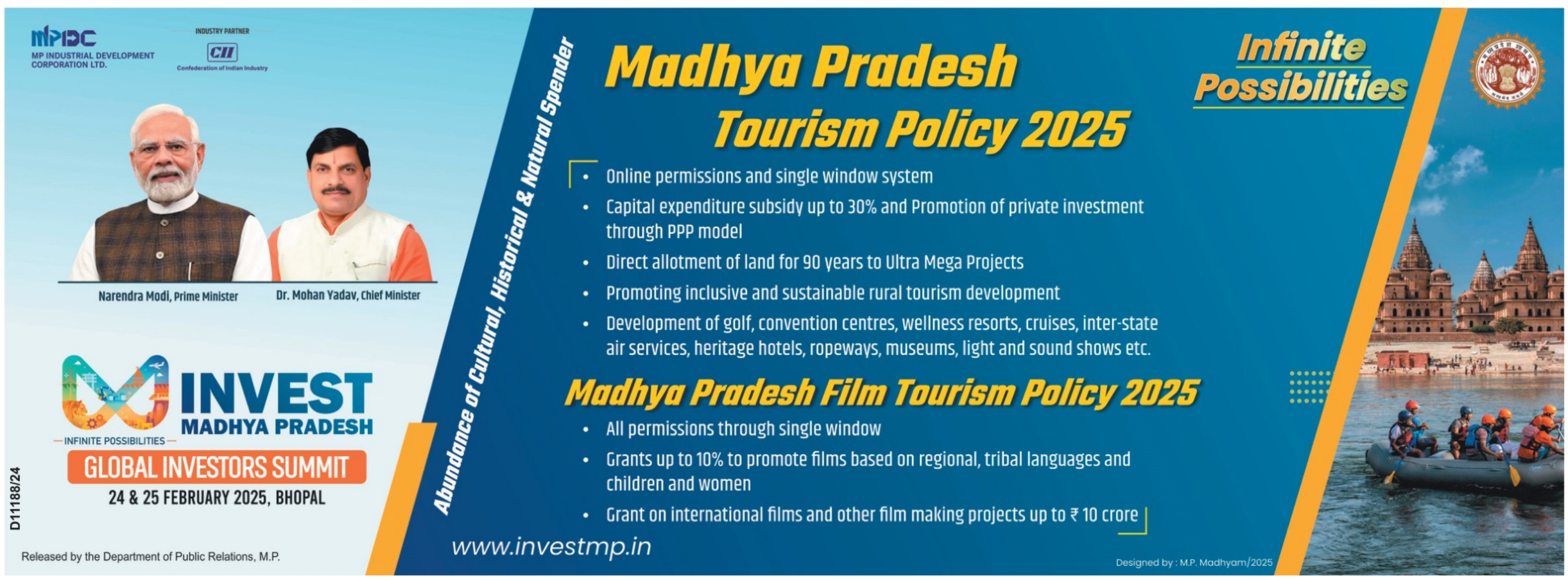
He expressed his gratitude to *The Hindu*, acknowledging its role in shaping individuals across the country. “I would like to take this opportunity to thank *The Hindu* because we all grew up reading this newspaper. It is more than a newspaper, and it is a way of life,” he said.

# Man from city dies in road accident in Arsikere taluk

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

A man from Bengaluru died on the spot and his grandfather suffered serious injuries when their car hit a concrete mixer vehicle near Banavara in Arsikere taluk of Hassan district on Thursday.

Hemanth, 23, a resident of Srinivasanagar in Bengaluru died on the spot. His grandfather, Lakshmanaiah, suffered injuries.

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# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### People given the capital punishment in Iran in 2024

**975** Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and French group Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) said that the figure was the highest since IHR began recording executions in Iran in 2008. This marks a 17% increase from the 834 people recorded in 2023. AFP

### The GDP growth rate in India as per Moody's Analytics

**6.4** in per cent. In its report, Moody's Analytics said growth across the Asia-Pacific economy will slow in 2025 as trade tensions, policy shifts, and uneven recoveries knock the region's fortunes. The report stated that India's growth will slow down by 0.2%, from 6.6% in 2024. PTI

### Number of criminals killed in Uttar Pradesh since 2017

**221** Criminals were killed in encounters while 8,022 others were injured in operations targeting criminal elements in various districts of Uttar Pradesh, said U.P. Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna on Thursday. The State also pursued cases against 68 identified mafia criminals. PTI

### Number of troops Keir Starmer plans to send to Ukraine

**30** in thousands. The British Prime Minister said he is "ready and willing" to put U.K. troops on the ground in Ukraine as a security guarantee in the event of some sort of a ceasefire deal between Moscow and Kyiv in exchange for American protection. REUTERS

### Number of hostages still held captive by Hamas

**66** Out of these, Israel has declared 30 to be dead. A total of 251 hostages were taken on October 7, 2023 by Hamas. So far 137 hostages have been freed, of which four died in captivity, and whose bodies were released on Thursday. AP

COMPILED BY KUSHAL VARMA J. V.

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# Is consumption enough to drive growth?

An economy's growth depends on two factors. One is the supply or the production of goods and services, and the other is the demand or expenditure for purchasing these goods and services. Among the sources of demand, investment stands out for its ability to create 'multiplier effects'. Consumption can only follow, not lead, growth

ECONOMIC NOTES

Jayan Jose Thomas

An economy's growth is like sailing on two boats tugged to each other. On one side is the supply or the production of goods and services. GDP, or gross domestic product, is the value the production process adds. On the other side, there is demand or expenditure for purchasing these goods and services from the market. Both the supply and the demand boats must move in tandem. If supply proceeds slower than demand, prices rise, leading to inflation. If demand falls behind, firms will be left with unsold inventories, which may lead to cuts in future production, job and income losses, and a worsening cycle of demand and growth slowdown.

The demand or aggregate expenditure in an economy comes from four sources. First is private consumption, which is the sum of expenditures by all individuals on items such as food, clothing, and mobile phones. Second is private investment, which is the amount spent by firms and households on installing new machines and constructing new factories or residences. Third is government expenditure, for consumption and investment. The former refers to the money spent on day-to-day government operations, including paying salaries to officers, teachers, doctors and others attached to public institutions. Fourth is net exports or exports minus import of goods and services while engaging in trade with the rest of the world.

### Investment and its multipliers

Among the sources of demand, investment stands out for its ability to create 'multiplier effects'. That is, an increase in investment of ₹100 could increase the economy's overall demand and GDP by more than ₹100 – let us say by ₹125, with the multiplier being 1.25. Consider, for instance, public investment in building a new highway network. The incomes received by workers and firms involved in the road construction project will generate fresh demand in the economy. But that is not all. The highways will trigger the establishment of new shops and create opportunities for new industries, all of which translate into a much bigger expansion of aggregate demand. The multiplier effect will depend on the nature of the investment and the state of the economy. The multiplier from an investment in a railway line is likely higher in an underdeveloped district than in a region with a well-developed transport network.

Compared to investment, the multiplier effect arising from increased consumption is much weaker. If incomes increase, consumption expenditures also increase, but the relation does not work strongly enough in the reverse direction. A rise in consumption cannot lift incomes as much in the rest of the economy. Therefore, according to Keynesian economists, consumption is a passive component of aggregate demand.

### Indian and Chinese experiences

In the early 1990s, the per capita incomes of India and China were almost the same. Both countries were equally poor, with the average income of an Indian or Chinese resident being approximately 1.5% of the average income of an American. But by 2023, China's per capita income has grown to five times as high as the Indian level (2.4 times as high if purchasing power differences between the two countries are considered). As a proportion of U.S. levels, the per capita incomes of China and India were 15% and 3%, respectively, in 2023 (Chart 1). The speedy growth of incomes in China has been led by investment.

China's investment rates have been significantly higher than India's from the 1970s onward. In 1992, investment as a share of GDP was 39.1% in China compared to 27.4% in India, even though the per capita incomes of the two countries were nearly equal. The gap in investment rates between India and China narrowed during the first half of the 2000s, with India's investment rate climbing to 35.8% in 2007. However, the two countries responded to the global financial crisis of 2007-08 and its aftermath in starkly different ways. The investment rate took a big hit in India, especially after 2012. However, China battled its economic challenges with considerable expenditure, primarily through its state-owned enterprises, in areas such as infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence. By 2013, the investment rate rose to 44.5% in China but dropped to 31.3% in India. In 2023, these rates were 41.3% and 30.8%, respectively, for China and India (Chart 1).

India's economic growth over the last decade has been driven mainly by expanding domestic consumption expenditures. In 2023, consumption as a share of GDP was 60.3% in India compared to 39.1% in China (Table 1). The dominance of consumption in India's GDP structure is mainly due to the weaknesses of the other components of aggregate demand in the country. The shares of investment and government consumption expenditure are relatively low. India also has a trade deficit, with its import of goods and services being larger than its exports, reducing domestic demand.

Economic growth driven by consumption is not only slower than investment-led growth, but it also aggravates inequalities. The growth of jobs, incomes, and consumption has remained depressed for many Indians, and they will be left behind.

There has been a stagnation in the growth of investment by the public and private corporate sectors in India (it is too early to say if the marginal improvement in investment in 2022-23 is here to stay) (Chart 2). The only segment that has shown some vitality is household investment, especially in residential buildings, and that too during the early 2010s. The continued reluctance of private capitalists to spend more in the economy is a sign of their sagging 'animal spirits'. In times like these, the government needs to step in with its investments, particularly in critical sectors, to boost private sector confidence and help spread the benefits of growth to the broader population.

However, the government has not shown its resolve, including in the latest Union Budget, to provide an investment boost to the Indian economy. Instead, the tax concessions and the unwillingness to significantly raise government spending indicate a preference for a low-growth trajectory pulled by the consumption of the middle and upper classes.

*Jayan Jose Thomas is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.*

**Chart 1:** Per capita income and investment rates in India and China

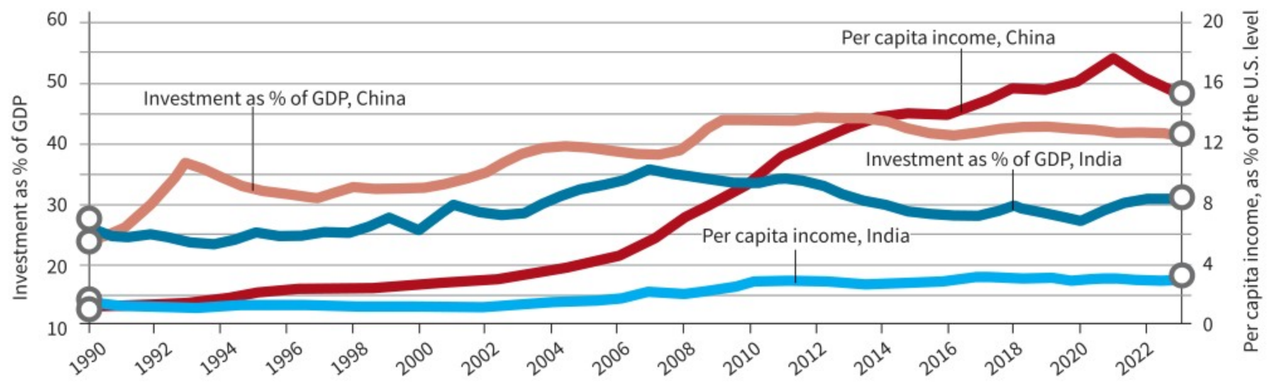



**Chart 2:** Investment as % of GDP in India by institutional sectors

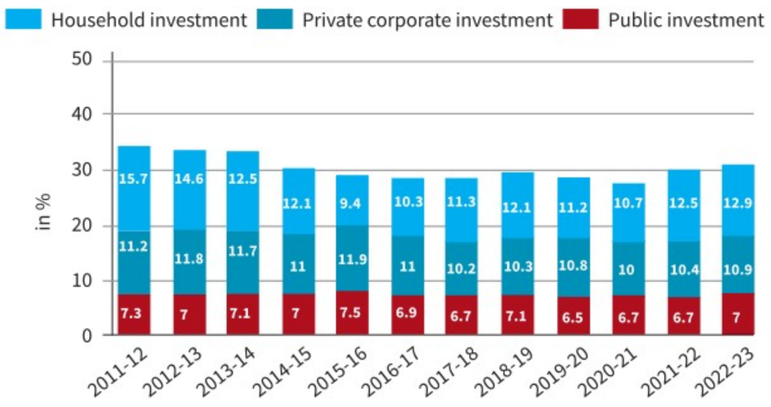



**Table 1:** Distribution (in %) of GDP by expenditure type: India and China, 2023

| | India | China |
|---|---|---|
| Private consumption | 60.3 | 39.1 |
| Investment | 30.8 | 41.3 |
| Government consumption | 10.4 | 16.5 |
| Exports | 21.8 | 19.7 |
| Less imports | -24.1 | -17.6 |
| GDP | 100.0 | 100 |
| GDP per capita (current US$) | 2481 | 12,614 |

GDP = Value added in the production of all goods and services = C + (I+ Ig) + Cg + E -- M

Here, C =private consumption; I = private investment; Ig = investment by the government; Cg = government consumption; Cg + Ig = G or government expenditure; E = exports of goods and services; M = imports of goods and services.

Source: World Development Indicators, The World Bank, National Accounts Statistics 2024

## THE GIST

Consider, for instance, public investment in building a new highway network. The incomes received by workers and firms involved in the road construction project will generate fresh demand in the economy.

There has been a stagnation in the growth of investment by the public and private corporate sectors in India. The only segment that has shown some vitality is household investmennt.

The government needs to step in with its investments, particularly in critical sectors, to boost private sector confidence and help spread the benefits of growth to the broader population.

**Abandoned legacy:** What was once the vegetable and flower market at the Jayanagar BDA Complex lying in abject negelct now, and (right) the new building at the BDA complex that generally wears a deserted look with very few customers coming in. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

# Old markets: Grand redevelopment and harsh business realities

Once envisioned to become commercial hubs, Bengaluru's redeveloped markets are now struggling with dwindling footfall, crumbling infrastructure, and vendor discontent. **Shreyas H.S.** visits Jayanagar BDA Complex, K.R. Market, Johnson Market, and Gandhi Bazaar and talks to traders who lament poor business, civic neglect, and lack of accessibility

Sipping a cup of hot filter coffee, 32-year-old Arun Kumar wears a faraway and worried look. Braving the stench of urine that fills the air, he carries his coffee up the stairs littered with paper cups and plastic bags. There is no missing the gutka stains on the walls all along.

Mr. Kumar's day begins like this, as he gets set to open his small textile shop at the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) complex in Jayanagar 4th block in south Bengaluru.

About five years back, when Mr. Kumar moved in here, his hope was high. Now he is contemplating moving out, owing to poor business. The complex, which has six floors with parking in the basement, was opened in October 2017. But clearly, the once-buzzing-with-life marketplace in the heart of Jayanagar, is now not even a shadow of its old self.

The structure was built after demolishing Puttanna Kanagal Theatre at a cost of ₹57 crore. The building has 55 shops on the basement, ground floor and first floor. The space on the upper floors are near-empty, causing revenue losses to the BBMP, and giving the structure a deserted look.

## Abandoned halfway

The initial plan proposed demolishing the 45-year-old shopping complex, including the Puttanna Kanagal Theatre, to construct four modern towers featuring multiplex, multi-level parking, and a commercial hub. The old complex was gutted in 2008. In October 2010, the property was transferred to the BDA for redevelopment. However, after completing one block, the BDA washed its hands of and returned it to the BBMP.

Palike Bazaar at Vijayanagar. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The old buildings at the location have not been demolished as planned by the BBMP. They lie abandoned and have turned into a den of illegal activities. Ever since a portion of this building was gutted, it is in a state of total neglect.

"In the beginning, for at least a year into inauguration, the complex saw business. The customers were keen on coming inside. After about a year, the footfall started to dwindle. We were making a business of ₹25,000 to ₹30,000 every day and now we barely cross ₹7,000. The complex has miserably failed in serving the purpose," said Mr. Kumar. "I am now pondering shifting out of the building."

Santosh N., who runs a pooja material store, said the shopkeepers in 2022 pooled money to repaint the walls stained with gutka. As there is no security and maintenance, in the night, miscreants sat inside the complex, drank, and threw away the bottles. With business volume falling, the shops on the first floor open only after 11 a.m. Mr. Santosh said the people visiting the fourth block make purchases from the stores located on the streets, and several street vendors, who were allotted slots in the complex, are using them only as godown.

This so-called redeveloped market is not an isolated case. Though the state of neglect may vary, nearly all of them are testimony to how the traditional markets, which were shopping hubs for decades and were redeveloped to make them on a par with malls, have failed. Vendors' experience shows consumers have little interest in walking into the shops inside the building. But the authorities are in no mood to rethink the model.

> People now have many avenues that have better facilities. They prefer swanky places. Unless the market is renovated while retaining heritage value, the footfall will continue to dwindle.
>
> **MOHAMMAD NAZIR**
> Grocery shop owner at Johnson Market

## Once a stable

Rising from the grounds of a Persian trader's old stable, Johnson Market has been a landmark in Bengaluru since 1929. Once known as Richmond Town Market, this historic bazaar was later named after a British civil servant. Over the decades, it had transformed into a melting pot of cultures, flavours, and stories, standing as a testament to the city's colonial past.

The market is now crying for attention with the ceiling cracked, walls broken, and garbage dumped everywhere. Mohammad Nazir, who has a grocery shop here, said, "This market has failed to keep pace with the changing city. It has a heritage sheen but no urban glamour to attract customers. Even after the market was given a minor facelift, it failed to attract customers." Mr. Nazir's grandfather was also vending at this market.

Although there are 72 shops in the building, only 25 are functional, and those on the outside have reasonable business. The space inside has been turned into storage facilities. The vegetable vendors have tied up with hotels that source vegetables and fruits from bigger markets in the early hours and keep them here for the hoteliers to pick up, Mr. Nazir said. "People now have many avenues that have better facilities and in better condition. They prefer swanky places. Unless the market is renovated while retaining heritage value, the footfall will continue to dwindle," he said.

## Nine-year wait

At Malleswaram, on Sampige Main Road, vendors say moving into a 5+2 floor market building after work completion is not something they look forward to. Shanmugam, a fruit vendor who has been running his stall for 45 years, said, such an experiment in Gandhi Bazaar failed to yield the desired results. More importantly, the vendors have lost interest as the project that commenced nine years back is dragging on. Every year, the BDA promises completion in six months but nothing materialises.

The building under construction has the space to house 181 shops but the vendors have realised that shifting would hit business hard. To purchase a banana for ₹20, will consumers enter this complex as they have to pay ₹50 parking fee, store owners ask. "Even regular customers will stop coming because of the additional money they have to shell out. However, we are left with no choice but to occupy as otherwise we will be vacated from the existing place," he rued.

A senior BDA official claimed the building is "nearing completion." He exuded confidence that there would be a mall above the ground floor and this would definitely attract the customers.

## Earliest structure

In 1998, the new K.R. Market was built after demolishing an old building that had been standing since 1928. The first such complex built in Bengaluru, it has also failed to deliver. Ever since it was rebuilt, 1 lakh square feet is yet to be occupied. The building has an underground basement, upper basement and two floors.

G.M. Divakar, president of the Flower Merchants' Association, said on the upper basement floor, there are 22 shops functioning and on the first and second, there are hardly any. Access to the market is a challenge. The visitors either have to drive through Avenue Road or Mysuru Road which are infamous for traffic snarls. The consumers travelling on the metro have to deboard at Chickpet and walk. The poor access is keeping people away from this market and hence the vendors are left with no choice but to carry out business on the streets. Many shops in this building too have become storage areas.

In 2017-18, under the smart city project, nearly ₹50 crore was allocated for redevelopment. To date, no work has been done. He alleged that this was "one of the biggest scams" related to markets in the city.

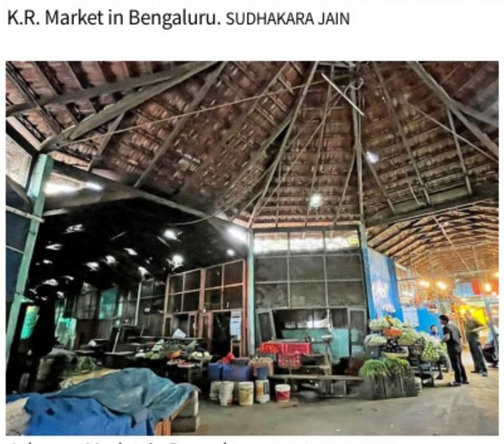
## Charming streets

In Gandhi Bazaar, a few decades back, the BBMP developed a structure in front of the famed Vidyarthi Bhavan as a space that can house fruit, vegetable and flower vendors who now do their business on the main road. But it has now turned into a warehouse and a space to dump waste. The vendors are still on the streets. They say they will incur losses if they move in.

Old market complex, Gandhi Bazaar. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Malleswaram Market in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

K.R. Market in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN



Johnson Market in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Shankar, who has a shop in the building and pays rent to the BBMP, said, "The charm of Gandhi Bazaar is street vendors. Confining them to closed rooms takes away the flavour of the place. Initially, we agreed to set up business inside the market. As months passed, we realised that this kind of business ecosystem does not work for us."

With white-topping and infrastructure facelift, Shankar said the air of this old market has changed. "One should not try to change this traditional place along the lines of Church Street. The Church Street has a different feel and crowd. Gandhi Bazar' gradual change has affected the vendors," he claimed.

## Palike Bazaar

On the other hand, the BBMP has also been experimenting with other kinds of marketplaces an example of which is Bengaluru's first underground market Palike Bazaar in Vijayanagar. It emulates the Delhi model, but has not done as well as expected, say vendors in Vijayanagar. After years of delay, the market, developed at the cost of ₹8 crore, was inaugurated in 2024 by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

S. Babu, president Karnataka Pragati Para Beedi Vyaparigala Sangha, talking to *The Hindu* said this January, the Executive Engineer received a letter from the South Zonal Commissioner for calling a tender to house vendors. "The irony is that already about 40 people have occupied the shops. They are unauthorised.

Among these, there are people who are doing real estate businesses too. Now the BBMP has the task of vacating them from the place. The actual vendors in the area are in for a long battle to register their names," he said.

This apart, the vendors now also feel that going underground from the streets will hamper the business. In a city like Bengaluru, which is riddled with traffic issues, the citizens want quick access to shops. Ideally, vending on the streets, without hampering traffic or pedestrians, is a win-win situation for both vendors and customers. Not all are comfortable walking into dedicated buildings, and underground markets, said Babu. This Palike Bazaar, like any other redeveloped, renovated market, will turn into a warehouse, he feared.

## Redevelopment continues

Despite the examples of failure, the BBMP continues with its revamping efforts. It wants to redevelop Russel Market and build a complex at K.R. Puram. A senior BBMP official said citing some setbacks, projects cannot be scrapped. For instance, Banashankari BDA Complex is still thriving, he pointed out. In other areas also, people will visit if the vendors continue the business instead of coming back on streets without waiting for shopping habits to form and business to pick up.

The official pointed out that people visiting malls, paying high fees, countering vendors' claim that paid parking discourages consumers. "It's about incorporating a new culture among the citizens. For this to happen, the vendors have to display some patience and endure some losses. After a while, business will come back to normal. In the city, where space is shrinking, designated buildings for vending will become a mandate. The vendors have to keep up with the evolving times instead of clinging to archaic practices," he said.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

# How prison dramas explore the human condition

No other setting lends more nuanced cinematic takes on the human condition as much as prisons do. As countless films and shows have reflected on, most prisons seem far removed from their rehabilitative purpose

**Bhuvanesh Chandar**

In August 1971, a psychology professor at Stanford University conducted a study in which college students were offered money in exchange for participating in a two-week prison simulation experiment. Philip Zimbardo wished to understand what such an environment would do to their psyche. Through coin-flips, the participants were segregated into 'prisoners' and 'guards'. In just 24 hours into the experiment, the crucible gave in, with prisoners rebelling against the guards, and the latter resorting to psychological abuse to show prisoners their place. The experiment reached unspeakable heights and was terminated on the sixth day, with the intervention of psychologist Christina Maslach.

In 2015, Kyle Patrick Alvarez made a cinematic retelling of the experiment, called *The Stanford Prison Experiment*, which incisively took viewers through the experiment; while every progressing situation reveals intriguing psychological results of life in prison, the epilogue is startling, where the participants spell out their experience. Several concurred that putting on a uniform of authority automatically brings out their worst, apathetic selves. From the beginning, we see Michael Angarano's prison guard character, the despicable John Wayne, 'enact' how he believes guards should be. When confronted, he expresses his disbelief in how his abusive authoritarian ship wasn't questioned enough.

Much of this echoes Tamil filmmaker Vetri Maaran's belief that the pyramid of power is such that it cannot function with empathy. As the high recidivism rates point toward, most prisons seem far removed from their rehabilitative purpose, now existing as a mere symbol of apathy, a reminder of human despicability.

Sidhant Gupta as Charles Sobhraj in *Black Warrant*. NETFLIX

**Prison, a microcosm of society**

As several films and shows have shed light on, the prospect of jailing someone is currency by itself, used for political and personal reasons. Filmmakers have captivatingly explored the prison system, attempting to unearth hushed, perverse secrets of our civilised world. Though a sanitised retelling of real events, Netflix's *Black Warrant* explored the psychological nuances of life in prison and the politics that make the governing system anything but rehabilitative. When we first meet the infamous Bikini Killer, Charles Sobhraj (Sidhant Gupta), in the series, the pull his presence has on the guards of Tihar seems heroic; but when you see our honest hero (Zahan Kapoor, as Sunil Kumar Gupta) repeatedly ask favours from Sobhraj, the curtain drops. You also see the system for what it is when Sunil's attempts towards rehabilitation are hindered by his superiors. Like in a particular episode in which criminals Billa and Ranga are hanged, many scenes question our biases.

Several cinematic titles have taken swings at our moral contradictions. Reduced to their primal selves, humans perversely wish to feel liberated from their own social structures and step out of line, if they could face no consequences. They even self-condition their moral compass to live without guilt. They would know better if they watched Ric Roman Waugh's 2008 drama *Felon*, which spectacularly shows how a man – imprisoned for accidentally killing an intruder – is brutalised by a debauched institution and forced to abide by gang rules to survive.

The character of Lieutenant Bill Jackson in *Felon* embodies a corrupt cog in the prison wheel, a superior who has succumbed to the pressure of prison life. Watching Jackson break down in a parking lot echoes Samuthirakani's character in Vetri Maaran's *Visaranai*, which remains the most gut-wrenching depiction of the filth running deep in our prison system. Post the release of the film, reports cited testimonies of viewers experiencing fear for men in khaki; the many news reports of fake encounters in southern India have only added to the image that Visaranai and successive Tamil films like *Jai Bhim* and *Viduthalai* have painted of our police.

**Prison, a primitive jungle**

In a confine, the only colleagues you have are your prison mates. They could be your friend or enemy, but most importantly, they are the only resemblance of any human relationship you have during your time in jail. They can be your voice of consciousness – like Balaji Sakthivel's Bashir in *Sorgavaasal*, a cook who helps RJ Balaji's Parthiban find purpose – or prove to be ladders to the higher levels of prison hierarchy – like Selvaraghavan's Siga in the same film. Many Hollywood films have shown how normalised sexual abuse among inmates is in prisons, like 2000's *Animal Factory*. In the Steve Buscemi film, when Willem Dafoe's Earl Copen helps 21-year-old Ron Decker (Edward Furlong), the latter seems hesitant, wondering if all this kindness is a manipulation tactic. Copen, however, proves to be an angel; he educates Ron on the quagmire that is life in prison.

In *Felon*, when Wade Porter (Stephen Dorff) is lodged with a hardened criminal (Val Kilmer, as John Smith), in a Special Housing Unit, you understand Porter's paranoia. Surprisingly, in a place where you survive by teaming up with a gang and fighting at a pit, you realise that while Smith isn't an angel, he isn't a demon either.

A quote from Smith vividly paints how prison "desensitises" all: "The first time you see a guy's face cut up, you puke. The second time, you are concerned. After a while, you step right over and you could give a s***. It's no different for them pulling the trigger. Make no mistake, we are all in prison."

Through films, we could also witness unnervingly how social evils like casteism, bigotry, and racism show their hideous faces within prison halls, like with the segregation between Whites, Blacks and Hispanics in many Hollywood prisons. *Black Warrant* too touched upon this, by setting its story during a sensitive period in India's history, showing the plight of the Sikhs in the aftermath of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984; a well-staged scene featuring Sunil and Paramvir Singh Cheema's Shivraj Singh Mangat, after being suspended for standing up for Sikhs like himself, shows how such hostility could break the best of us, even fissuring precious relationships.

**A redemption arc?**

On the mainstream Indian cinema front, prisons can be a launching pad for the wronged hero. 2023's *Sapta Saagaradaache Ello* told the story of a young couple whose lives turn tumultuous when the man is asked by his boss to take the fall for a murder. Manu (Rakshit Shetty) does it so he can come out soon and lead a good life with Priya (Rukmini Vasanth). Betrayed, his spirit is torn from within as the walls of the prison close in. Usually, it's the male hero, but in cases like Sriram Raghavan's *Ek Hasina Thi*, a heroine (Urmila Matondkar's striking performance) seeks vengeance after a wrongful conviction.

Prison escape dramas like *Escape From Alcatraz* and *The Shawshank Redemption* deliver nail-biting narratives, but what if the hero voluntarily enters the prison for a reason?

Nothing comes close to the explosive intermission sequence inside a prison in *Vada Chennai*. Vetri Maaran's command shines through in a scene set at a carrom board competition in the prison yard, in which a leading character is revealed as an insider.

No other setting lends such nuanced takes on the human condition as much as the state-approved confine. Given the long history of our prisons and the innumerable individuals whose stories are yet to make their way to our screens, prison dramas remain a potent genre that lets us understand our flawed selves.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

## Manipur has been in the news for political turmoil, but here's a quiz on some prominent people from one of India's most important border States

**Srinivasan Ramani**

**QUESTION 1**
Name this feminist social movement also known as the guardians of civil society in the Manipur valley, which has played a major role in fighting against drug abuse, alcoholism, crimes against women, and against the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. What does the name of this movement mean?

**QUESTION 2**
One of India's outstanding boxers, this athlete who was also part of the Indian Navy, won the gold medal in the Bantamweight category at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok. Name him.

**QUESTION 3**
A Padma Shri awardee and a Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award winner, this weightlifter won the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 in the women's 49 kg event. Name her.

**QUESTION 4**
Considered a leading exponent of the Indian classical dance form of Manipuri, this artiste was awarded the Padma Shri in 1986 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowship awarded by the National Academy for Music, Dance and Drama, besides the Tagore Award in 2014. Name him.

**QUESTION 5**
Name the politician who has served as the Chief Minister of the State for the longest period (15 years and 11 days).

**Visual question:**
Name this freedom fighter and later, a Padma Bhushan awardee in 1982.

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The Election Commission became a three-member body from this year. **Ans: 1993**
2. This mathematician served as the first Election Commissioner of independent India. **Ans: Sukumar Sen**
3. The distinction V. S. Ramadevi's tenure holds. **Ans: She had the shortest tenure as Election Commissioner, with 16 days**
4. The NOTA option was introduced under this person's tenure. **Ans: V. S. Sampath**
5. This person served as CEC for the longest tenure. **Ans: Kalyan Sundaram**
Visual: Name this bureaucrat who is credited with reforming the poll body. **Ans: T. N. Seshan**
**Early Birds:** Siddhartha Viswanathan| Arun Kumar Singh| Sumana Dutta| Tamal Biswas| Parimal Das

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know your English*

**K. Subrahmanian**
**S. Upendran**

"This is a hopeless dictionary."

"Why do you say that?"

"It doesn't even have the word 'Thrice' in it."

That's not surprising. 'Thrice' is not used these days."

"What! I hear the word almost everyday. Why, only yesterday I heard on T.V. that some airline flies to Ahmedabad thrice a week."

"You're right. We in India use the word 'thrice' very often. But native speakers of English don't use it. It's considered old-fashioned and that's why some dictionaries don't include it."

"What do the native speakers use instead of 'thrice'?"

"Three times. It's once, twice, three times. A native speaker would say, 'I play tennis three times a week' and not 'I play tennis thrice a week.' But remember, you'll find the word 'thrice' used occasionally in poetry."

"I see. And speaking of tennis, what happened to your match? Did you win?"

"We were skunked."

"Skunked! I've never heard the word 'skunk' used as a verb before."

"When you say you've been skunked, it means you've been completely defeated by someone. For example, I can say, 'Last year at Wimbledon, Goran Ivanisevic was skunked by Sampras in the third set'."

"He didn't win a single game in that set, did he?"

"No, he didn't. Thank goodness he didn't get skunked this year."

"True. Can I say, 'in the last election, some of the national parties were skunked by the regional parties'?"

"You certainly can. But remember, this use of the word 'skunk' as a verb is considered slang. It is used mainly in American English."

"Shall we drop this smelly subject of skunk and move on to something else?"

"Sure, why not?"

"What do you think of my new cap?"

"It fits you well."

"Thank you. I too think I look good in it."

"I said it fitted you. I didn't say the cap suited you."

"They mean the same thing, don't they?"

"No, they don't. When you say your shirt 'fits' you, it means it is of the correct size. It is neither big nor small."

"All of us want to wear clothes that fit us."

"But not all of us take care to wear clothes that 'suit' us. If your clothes suit you, they look good on you. The colour and the style of the clothes look good on you. For example, I can say, 'Yellow and red are colours that suit Siddharth well."

"Can I say, 'Pants don't suit Karthick. He looks better in a dhothi'?"

"You most certainly can. But if Karthick wants to get into a five star hotel, he'd better wear trousers and not a dhothi."

"That's true. I read the other day that a journalist wasn't allowed to enter a five star hotel because he was wearing a dhothi."

'The dhothi fitted the journalist, but it didn't suit the hotel management!"

*Published in The Hindu on July 18, 1995.*

## Word of the day

**Assiduous:**
marked by care and persistent effort

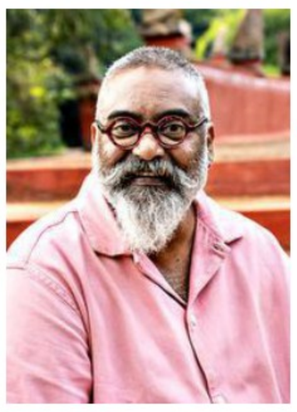
Synonyms: sedulous

Usage: *Her assiduous attempts to learn French paid off.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/assiduouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈsɪdjuːəs/, /əˈsɪʤuːəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'



**Good vibrations** (Clockwise from right) Aruna Sairam, Trilok Gurtu, Roysten Abel, Ravi Chary, SNAX, and Ranjit Barot (below) will be at the Mahindra Percussion Festival this year; the Vikku Vinayakram symphony at the 2024 edition (centre). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### To a different beat

The following artistes will be performing at the Mahindra Percussion Festival 2025:
**March 1:** Trilok Gurtu, Aruna Sairam's Thrillana Project and Ravi Chary
**March 2:** Ranjit Barot and Roysten Abel's BeatRoute and SNAX

# Thrice as good

**The Mahindra Percussion Festival** is back in the city and will be held on March 1 and 2

**Ruth Dhanaraj**
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Bengaluru is gearing up to host the third edition of the Mahindra Percussion Festival next month. To be held at the Prestige Centre of Performing Arts, this year's festival in association with *The Hindu*, is a tribute to Ustad Zakir Hussain, whose name has become synonymous with Indian classical percussion.

As with every edition of this festival, this year too, will see some world-class names such as Trilok Gurtu, Ravi Chary and others performing over two days. According to Jay Shah, vice president, Cultural Outreach at Mahindra Group, the purpose of such a festival is to place percussionists in the limelight.

"At other performances, they are relegated as accompanists to the performing artiste. The idea of this festival is to give them a platform to communicate directly with the audiences, and not just via another performer," says Jay.

"Every year we try to have a balanced approach of curation where we have established artistes as well as an interpolation of newer names. A lot of attention is given to balance experience as well as promise from the younger lot of performers."

Jay adds that another important facet of the festival is to include "as many different instruments and percussive styles as possible, keeping in mind the intention of the festival is to create an in-depth awareness of this tradition."

Percussion as a genre is present in so many different shapes, forms and gharanas, he adds, mentioning Aruna Sairam's Thrillana Project. "Aruna is essentially a vocalist, but she is going to be using her voice as a percussive instrument at this showcase; that is an unusual admission to the festival this year," says Jay adding, "There will be more contemporary sounds from Ravi Chary as well as the SNAX duo."

Audiences can expect performances from "established folk, younger contemporary talent and unusual combinations. Each of these groups will be using all kinds of percussive instruments that fulfill our aim of bringing different sounds to the programme."

Jay adds, "Curation is a year-long process as we are constantly evaluating and juggling which percussion instruments and talent would make sense for the goals we have in mind. It is quite easy to put together a list of popular performers – our idea is to ensure that some of the younger, undiscovered talents also get to the forefront. The element of discovery is important to all our festivals."

Day One of the festival will see performances by world-renown percussionist Trilok Gurtu and Aruna Sairam's Thrillana Project which will include artistes such as Giridhar Udupa, Sangeet Haldipur, BC Manjunath, Jyotsana Srikanth, Arun Kumar and Shalini Mohan.

As the festival is a tribute to Zakir Hussain, Ravi Chary will present *Crossing*, an album that was launched by the maestro in 2022.

Day Two will see the spotlight on the new wave of Indian percussion with *BeatRoute*, a musical production by composer Ranjit Barot and theatre director Roysten Abel. SNAX, the musical duo from Chennai, will share the stage with Ramkumar Kanakarajan and mridangist Sumesh Narayanan to bring a unique blend rock, metal and jazz.

*The Mahindra Percussion Festival 2025, in association with* The Hindu, *will be held at the Prestige Centre of Performing Arts on March 1 and 2. Tickets on BookMyShow*

# Tasty tales

British author Caroline Eden on her book *Cold Kitchen* which was recently launched at Champaca Bookstore in Bengaluru

**Stirring it up** Caroline Eden and Vijeta Kumar at the launch of *Cold Kitchen*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Anagha Maareesha**
anagha.mareesha@thehindu.co.in

Writer and book critic Caroline Eden said a career in writing came naturally to her. "I did some PR and marketing for a guidebook company. They had published a guide for Tajikistan, and I did the PR for it. By the end of it, I thought I better go and see this country."

This sparked an interest in travel writing, and now she has seven books about travel, food and recipes to her credit. Her latest is called *Cold Kitchen: A Year of Culinary Travels*, and chronicles her journey through Central Asia, Turkey, Ukraine, the South Caucasus, Russia, the Baltics and Poland. Each chapter is peppered with recipes from the regions. She visited Bengaluru last week to launch her book at Champaca Bookstore.

In conversation with Vijeta Kumar, a writer and professor, Caroline spoke about her travels in these countries. "You can tell any story through food. Food is a lens to talk about other things I am interested in. I write about the uncomfortable things surrounding food," she said. *Cold Kitchen* starts in her kitchen in Edinburgh. She cooks recipes from her travels and each chapter, with titles such as Russian Railway Pies, Carried Away by a Cloudberry, Clover Dumplings, delves into one region or anecdote.

At the launch she read from the book and mentioned a few. "I had to write about my Trans-Siberian train experience. It was a food-filled journey. Seven days on a train from Moscow to Vladivostok. People board with snacks, and a lot of vodka and pirozhki – hand pies that are simple to make. Yeasted dough with mushrooms and sauerkraut inside. It is very reassuring to have those."

She met all kinds of people on this journey, an ice hockey referee, a man who is a tap salesman, a young couple, and each had a story to share. We also learnt about Uzbekistan's love for winter melons, and Armenia's devotion to its apricots.

In her earlier book, *Red Sands: Reportage And Recipes Through Central Asia, From Hinterland To Heartland* she visited Kazakhstan, and wrote about the famine there. While her books have recipes, she does not want her books to fit into any boxes. "I don't call my books cookbooks, I call them travelogues with recipes."

Her next book, coming out in April is part of her colour trilogy (the previous ones being *Red Sands* and *Black Sea*) is called *Green Mountains*. "It starts in southern Armenia and ends in northern Georgia. It is a walking book with recipes."

*Cold Kitchen is priced at ₹1,899 and is available online and in bookshops*

## STEPOUT

### Soul tunes

Sonu Nigam will be performing live in Bengaluru this weekend. Popularly known as the Lord of Chords or Modern Rafi, the singer, who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022, has sung over 5,000 songs in various languages including Kannada. One of his most popular songs in Kannada is the iconic, 'Anisuthide Yaako' from the movie *Mugaru Male*. He also has sung film songs such as 'Mysooru Mallige' and 'Chanda Chanda.' Sonu is also known for his work as a television host and judge.

*On February 23 at Phoenix Marketcity, from 7.30pm. Tickets are available on Bookmyshow.*

### A saga at sea

Ranga Shankara's AHA! production will present *Old Man and the Sea* this weekend. Based on Ernest Hemingway's novella, this is the story of an epic struggle between an old, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life. The play is directed by S Surendranath and has puppetry by Arun DT and Gagan Kumar. *Old Man and the Sea* is suitable for anyone aged seven and above.

*On February 23, 3pm and 6pm at Ranga Shankara. Call 2649 982 for details. Tickets on BookMyShow and Ranga Shankara Box Office.*

# *Classic lone wolf Reacher*

Lee Child, the author of the bestselling series and executive producer of the show, talks about the reasons for choosing 'Persuader' for *Reacher* Season 3

**Bigger deal** The battle between Olivier Richters's Paulie and Alan Ritchson's Reacher gives an extra buzz, says Lee Child (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Mini Anthikad Chhibber**
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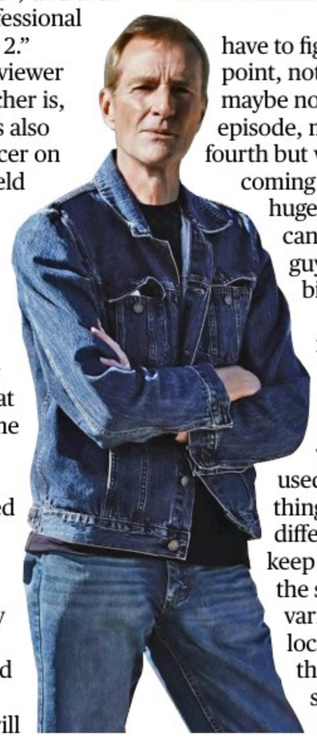
Jack Reacher (Alan Ritchson) walks into a record store with a box full of vinyl, and into trouble as always. This is the opening of Season 3 of *Reacher*, an adaptation of Lee Child's *Persuader*, the seventh in his Jack Reacher series, which details the adventures of a retired Military Policeman, who walks into a town, smells something rotten, investigates and rights the wrongs, beating up the bad guys along the way.

"We had strategised it from the very beginning," says Child over a video call from London. "We felt season one and season two introduced Reacher to the wider TV audience, by showing his real family in Season 1, (an adaptation of the first Reacher book, *Killing Floor*) and then showing his professional family in Season 2."

Now that the viewer knows who Reacher is, said Child who is also executive producer on the series, the field was wide open. "We decided to do a classic, lone wolf Reacher story, and *Persuader* seemed right for that. It has a great location and some great villains, including a sinister guy called Quinn."



The huge bodyguard, Paulie, played by Olivier Richters, Child says, upped the stakes. "We know Reacher will have to fight him at some point, not straight away, maybe not in the third episode, maybe not in the fourth but we know it's coming. So there's a huge tension there – can Reacher beat a guy who is so much bigger than him?

There were no negatives from Season 1 and Season 2, Child says. "My dad, who was Irish, used to say he liked things the same, but different. We had to keep Reacher feeling the same, but give variety in terms of location, plot and the feel of the show. In Season 3, Reacher is all alone, with no support, no help, undercover and in danger all the time. It's still a great Reacher story, but is a different flavour from what we've done before."

Though Season 2, an adaptation of *Bad Luck and Trouble*, finds Reacher with friends, Child says, he is still on his own.

### Off the page

October 2024's *In Too Deep* is the 29th book in the series. So there is plenty of material to adapt. "I hope we do them all," Child says. The only problem is the arc that begins with the 14th book in the series, *61 Hours* (2010). Reacher likes the sound of Susan Turner's voice enough to decide to go and meet her. Turner is the commanding officer of the 110th Special Investigations Unit that Reacher set up. Through three books, *Worth Dying For* (2010), *A Wanted Man* (2012) and *Never Go Back* (2013), Reacher finally meets Turner in a satisfactory payoff.

### Happy place

Child is all praise for Alan Ritchson as Reacher. "I love him. It's one of those happy things where he's perfect on the screen as Reacher, and also good fun off-screen. *Reacher* is a happy show, and that's because of Alan. He's the leader because he's the main character and he keeps everybody amused and working hard. I'm so happy that we chose him, and so happy he agreed to do it.

Fan-favourite Frances Neagley, Reacher's former colleague in the 110th Special Investigations Unit, is getting her own spin-off. "They start shooting this month. I've seen the screenplay. It's really good, and Maria Sten, who plays Neagley, is fabulous."

*Reacher Season 3 streams on Amazon Prime Video with weekly episode drops till March 27*

# MUDA case: HC reserves verdict on pleas of CM's wife, Minister

Enforcement Directorate says the scope of its investigation is wide and not confined to allotment of 14 sites to Parvathi

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday reserved its verdict on the petitions filed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, B.M. Parvathi, and Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, who have questioned the legality of the summons issued to them by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the case of illegal allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

A view of the High Court of Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

**Larger scope**

Meanwhile, the ED made it clear to the court that its investigation in the MUDA case was not confined to only the allegation of allotment of 14 sites illegally to Ms. Parvathi but also the illegal allotment of hundreds of sites by MUDA to various individuals, including real estate businessmen/agents, officials, and influential individuals.

The complaint filed by Mysuru-based social activist Snehamayi Krishna before the Lokayukta court itself speaks about large-scale illegality in the allotment of sites while claiming that the allotment of 14 sites to Ms. Parvathi is only "the tip of the iceberg", said Additional Solicitor General (ASG) of India K. Arvind Kamath on behalf of the ED.

Even though Ms. Parvathi has returned the 14 sites to MUDA, the ASG said, this action of hers does not change the character of the sites as "proceeds of crime", while also clarifying that the ED, at this stage, is not bound to state whether she has been summoned to record her statement as a witness or an accused as it would depend on the evidences collected in the investigation.

**'Subjected to pressure'**

An official has given a statement to the ED that he was subjected to pressure from the office of Ms. Suresh to do certain things, Mr. Kamath said while pointing out the reasons to summon the Minister for recording statement. The ASG said that petitioners cannot question the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) as it not akin to a First Information Report (FIR) as held by the apex court.

The ED can continue its probe even if the investigating agency, which has registered the FIR for predicate offence, files a 'B' report stating that it has not found evidence for the predicate offence, till the jurisdictional court accepts the 'B' report, the ASG said while also pointing out that the Madras High Court has held that the ED has the right to challenge the 'B' report filed by the investigating agency that probed the predicate offences.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who heard the arguments, reserved the verdict on the separate petitions filed by Ms. Parvathi and Mr. Suresh.

**ED's 'haste'**

Earlier, Senior Advocate Sandesh J. Chouta, appearing for Ms. Parvathi, contended that she had surrendered the 14 sites and she was neither in possession of nor enjoying any "so-called proceeds of crime" while questioning the haste with which the ED initiated proceedings under the Provisions of the Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Mr. Chouta contended that there must exist a clear element of "laundering" of "proceeds of crime" and in the present case, there was no transaction of allotted sites to attract the "laundering" under the PMLA.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chouta also pointed out to the court that media reports indicate that the Lokayukta police are filling a 'B' report in the MUDA case stating that there is no evidence to establish the allegations.

# Govt. likely to appeal against SC order on issue of TDR to erstwhile Mysore royal family

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In the light of the Supreme Court last week stating that its order on issuing the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) to the erstwhile Mysore royal family for the land notified to be acquired from Bangalore Palace Grounds for road-widening work was "not negotiable", the State government is yet to decide on the future course of action, but is likely to appeal against the order.

H.K. Patil

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons here, after the Cabinet meeting, that extensive discussions were held and it was decided that legal experts would be consulted before making any decision. While he said that it is most likely that the State government would go on an appeal, a decision would be taken after meeting legal experts.

Asked if the apex court's instructions to the State government were a setback, the Minister said, "We have made our position clear. Our intention is to protect the interests of the State as well as the property of the State. We have made a great deal of explanation on the issue and the cost of the TDR that runs into ₹3,000 crore is not acceptable and hence we promulgated the Ordinance."

After the Supreme Court directed the State to provide TDR for 15 acres and 39 guntas of the palace property that had been notified in 2009 to be used for widening Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road and costing about ₹3,000 crore, the State government promulgated the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Ordinance, 2025, giving itself the right to either acquire the property or not acquire it, effectively dropping the road-widening plans.

A top government source said it was not proper to pay the TDR of about ₹200 crore per acre for land where the road is yet to be completed. "It is a tricky issue and requires deliberations. We are very sure that we do not want to give TDR for ₹3,000 crore." Asked if the government was willing to look at an "out of court settlement" with members of the erstwhile royal family, the source did not outrightly reject or acknowledge the move. "The difference between our acquisition cost (₹11 crore) and TDR amount (₹3,000 crore) is very high," the source said.

The source said that Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996, the original Act that has been questioned in the Supreme Court, is still in force as the court has not stayed it. The government was willing to pay the TDR as per the cost of the acquisition that was about ₹11 crore for the entire 472 acre property.

# Higher-than-normal temperatures witnessed in State in February

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

February has already witnessed higher than normal temperatures, with a 2.5° C increase over the average, and a temperature drop is expected in the last week of the month, officials informed Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda at a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting on disaster management.

They also informed him that above-normal rainfall is expected during the pre-monsoon season, with a good rainfall in April and May. There is also a likelihood of increased rainfall in the last week of February and March. However, rainfall during the rabi season has been below average, and October-December is expected to see a decline in precipitation, officials said.

Drinking water is being supplied via tankers and borewells in 66 villages across 13 taluks in the districts of Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Bengaluru Urban, and Ramanagara.

**Above-normal rainfall expected during the pre-monsoon season, say officials at meeting on disaster management**

**Water quality issues**

They brought to his notice that due to long-term water scarcity and water quality issues, drinking water is currently being supplied via tankers and borewells in 66 villages across 13 taluks in five districts of Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Bengaluru Urban, and Ramanagara. Tankers and borewells are being used to supply drinking water in 56 wards in urban local bodies across Chickballapur, Bengaluru Urban, and Kolar districts.

The Minister instructed officials to identify additional villages that may face water scarcity in the coming months and supply drinking water through tankers there. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding water availability for agriculture and drinking water, weather conditions, and reservoir levels.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department has been instructed to make comprehensive preparations by reviewing past measures and considering additional steps to resolve drinking water issues. A detailed report would be presented at the next Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting, the Minister said.

The Revenue Minister also informed that ₹488.3 crore is currently available in the PD accounts (Disaster Relief Fund) of all Deputy Commissioners and tahsildars, ensuring that financial constraints would not hinder relief measures.

**Reservoir levels**

The Cabinet Sub-Committee reviewed the current water storage in major reservoirs. Karnataka's 14 key reservoirs currently hold 535.21 tmcft of water, which is around 60% of the average storage. Last year, at the same time, the storage was 332.52 tmcft.

Expressing concern over lower water levels in some reservoirs, the Minister emphasised the need to carefully manage available water, considering irrigation requirements and future drinking water needs.

# 'Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund' to boost start-ups in Mysuru, Hubballi, Mangaluru

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The State government has announced the setting up of the 'Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund' of ₹75 crore to encourage start-ups in Mysuru, Hubballi, and Mangaluru.

"This will be the initial fund to promote start-up entrepreneurs to invest in the three cities. A sum of ₹20 crore will be set aside for 2024-2025 and ₹55 crore will be made available in 2025-2026," said Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil while briefing reporters on the Cabinet decisions.

He also said that a semiconductor future accelerator lab 2.0 will be set up at the cost of ₹79.8 crore of which the State government would invest ₹50 crore and the rest would be borne by the Centre. He said the lab would be established under the Companies Act over a period between 2025 and 2030.

The Cabinet also approved amendments to the Karnataka Pawn Brokers Act, Karnataka Prevention of Exorbitant Interest Act, and Money Lenders Act to bring the punishments and penal fines in line with the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025, promulgated recently.

**For water security**

It also cleared the action plan and proposal to float tenders for 16 works to be taken up under the World Bank-funded ₹2,000 crore water security and disaster resilience project for Bengaluru city. Comprehensive development of Mysuru exhibition grounds at a cost of ₹20 crore, development of Renuka Yellamma temple at Saundatti, Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru, and Papanash temple in Bidar would be taken up.

The Cabinet also asked Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar-led group of Ministers, including the Public Works and RDPR Ministers, to study the recommendations made by a committee on preparing estimates for civic works.

# SCSP/TSP funds will again be diverted for guarantees, says BYV

State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra and other leaders at a meeting in the BJP office in Bengaluru on Thursday.

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**BJP leaders to tour the State in 14 teams to create awareness about the alleged misuse of funds**

Alleging that the Congress government had diverted funds to the tune of ₹14,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore earmarked for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to fund the guarantee schemes in the previous State Budget, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Thursday expressed concern that the government was again set to divert funds to the tune of ₹18,000 crore to ₹20,000 crore earmarked under the SCSP/TSP to the guarantees in this year's Budget.

Briefing media persons after attending a workshop at the BJP State office here on the preparations for the launching a public campaign on the alleged diversion of funds, Mr. Vijayendra said BJP leaders would tour the State in 14 teams to create awareness about the alleged misuse of funds.

On the Lokayukta's clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his wife in the MUDA case, he said it had not come as a surprise for the BJP. "What else can you expect from an inquiry conducted by the officers appointed by the Chief Minister himself?" he asked.

# BJP rebels now decide to adopt a 'cautious approach'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In a strategic move, the BJP rebels – who have created a flutter in the party through public tirades by their leaders against the party State leadership – have reportedly now decided to adopt a "cautious approach" in the future.

Basangouda R. Patil Yatnal

The decision is learnt to have been taken at a meeting of the party rebel leaders that was held in Bengaluru on Thursday. According to sources, the meeting was of the view that they should desist from making frequent statements through the media as that would project them as violating the party discipline.

The meeting reportedly felt that they would not tone down the intensity of their struggle, but would communicate with the party high command, instead of issuing media statements.

**Strategic move**

The decision taken when just a few days are left for the election of the new State president for the party is being seen as a "strategic" one to avoid being projected as violators of party discipline.

Also, the rebel leaders reportedly decided to take up a Statewide campaign demanding strict action on illegal migrants from Bangladesh on the lines of the campaign on waqf land issue taken up by them earlier. The schedule of the campaign is expected to be finalised in about a week from now, according to a leader who attended the meeting.

Also, the rebel leaders reportedly decided to work effectively for the success of their supporters and BJP leaders who are sympathetic to them in the zilla and taluk panchayat elections that are expected to be held soon.

Before the meeting, Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, who is the face of rebels, again lashed out at party State president B.Y. Vijayendra and said neither the former nor his father (B.S. Yediyurappa) can do any harm to him.

# Government to support trusts of writers Pu.Ti. Narasimhachar, Narasimhaswamy

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

The State government will extend support to the activities of the trusts of two renowned writers from Mandya – Pu.Ti. Narasimhachar and K.S. Narasimhaswamy.

This was announced by Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy, who is also in charge of Mandya district. He made this assurance to members of the two trusts who called on him at his office in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Pu.Ti. Narasimhachar and (right) K.S. Narasimhaswamy with his wife.

The Minister said steps to promote the works of the two literary figures would be initiated and the Department of Kannada and Culture would be involved. The Minister said the two writers from Mandya had become the pride of the entire State and their literary works were of the highest quality.

The two trusts initiated by the Kannada and Culture Department in their memory would be supported and encouraged to work more effectively, he added.

He recalled that the house of PuTiNa at Melkote had been renovated and there was a demand to develop the memorial site as well. The construction of a roof for the open-air theatre, reprinting his literary works etc. would be taken up and financial support provided, the Minister said. Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy said provisions for funds would be made in the coming State Budget.

Similarly, the Minister said efforts would be made to convert the residence of KSN at Kikkeri village in K.R. Pet taluk into a memorial. In addition, the lake that inspired Narasimhaswamy would be developed into a tourism destination with the assistance of the Minor Irrigation and Tourism departments, he added.

# Wedding bells: Why traditional halls in Bengaluru's old areas are losing favour

Many couples these days prefer to tie the knot at open air and spacious event venues or resorts on the outskirts of city rather than in kalyana mantapas

**Yemen S.**
BENGALURU

From Chandra Sagara Convention Centre and Sindhoor Convention Centre in the south to the Sapthapadi Sapthagiri Palace and Sri Rajhans Convention Hall in the west, for decades, Bengaluru's weddings were synonymous with Kalyana Mantapas in the heart of the city. These halls were compact and functional. But today, couples are stepping away from these local venues, seeking more spacious and picturesque locations, and personalised wedding experiences. Now most of these conventional centres are becoming venues for exhibitions and sales round the year.

Traffic congestion, parking woes, and the rigid structures of older function halls have driven families to explore alternatives that offer both luxury and flexibility. From serene retreats in Nandi Hills to lavish resorts along Kanakapura Road, to modern convention halls at Hebbal, the trend is now more about immersive experiences and not just rituals. With an increasing number of couples opting for grand or intimate, or theme-based celebrations away from the city's chaos, Bengaluru's wedding landscape is undergoing a transformation.

*The Hindu* spoke to wedding planners, convention hall owners, newly married couples and others, who explained that it is not just about space and aesthetics, but there are deeper cultural and economic factors at play too.

One of the marriage halls used for exhibition and sales of the products at Jayanagar. K BHAGYA PRAKASH

Siri Rao, who got married in December last year, shared that resorts or open-air venues feel more relaxed and informal. FILE PHOTO

### Personal feel

Nanditha Shetty, who is set to get married in June, said that the vibe at a resort is just so much more "chill and scenic." "It feels personal and exclusive like it is just me and my people having a blast, which is what a wedding should be all about. But convention halls are like wedding factories, just a conveyor belt of events. With a resort it is like a mini destination wedding, but without the crazy price tag." In her view everything is "right" there -- the food, the space, the experiences. "There are only a few things that might need to be outsourced, and that's a total win in my book," she added.

Siri Rao, who got married in December last year, shared a similar view, that resorts or open-air venues feel more relaxed and informal. "We had a very specific theme and an open-air venue that really gave us an opportunity to properly personalise the decor and everything. So, it fully fits our personalities. We could also create little nooks and corners for photo booths and other fun stuff," she said.

### More affordable

On the other hand, Syed Riaz, who got married in November last year, said that regular convention halls have got very expensive. "I had my wedding outside Bengaluru but had the reception in the city. We wanted the wedding at a popular convention centre in south Bengaluru because this is where I have lived all my life, but the place was around ₹5 lakh per day. I got a bigger convention centre in north Bengaluru for ₹2 lakh per day, with double the space and that looked aesthetically better. Accessing convention halls at prime areas is going beyond budget for most middle-class people," Syed explained.

Makeup artist Humma Khannam, who does bridal makeup for brides across Bengaluru, said that destination or outdoor weddings have gained immense popularity in recent years due to affordability factors. "People prefer destination weddings instead of the traditional ones because couples want something unique and memorable for their big day. The bride and groom get to keep their guests minimal, allowing couples to prioritise their loved ones, which also avoids the stress to invite extended family members. Moreover, the overall cost of the wedding will be significantly lower when compared to that of a wedding in a convention hall in the city," she added.

Neethi Shanthakumar, founder of Bengaluru-based Purplerings has been planning, designing and organising weddings across the country for 15 years, said that the shift from traditional convention halls to destination weddings surged right before the COVID-19 pandemic. "It slowly progressed a lot more after the pandemic. Bengaluru right now has become a place for destination weddings both for local people and people from across the country due to the pleasant weather and the multiple venues on the outskirts of the city. These are spaces where people get off the airport and can easily go to the venue without entering the city and deal with the traffic," she explained.

Neethi said that a lot of her local clients also prefer the destination venues over the regular convention centres due to its aesthetics. "Most wedding halls within the city are typical halls that have nothing but a stage and chairs. People are past that and focus a lot on aesthetics. We have a lot of local and NRI client who want a cultural experience for their guests."

There are many new venues that have a traditional feel or the look of a temple, although they are quite modern and newly constructed. "There are venues that give a very tropical feel also, that gives a beach wedding-like feel," she said.

Neethi said that even if a client wants to have their wedding at a convention centre, the management of these halls are not very open to the ideas of wedding planners. "Many Bengaluru clients still do want to have the wedding within the city because it is convenient for their guests to commute. However, convention centres do not adjust to the needs of the couple getting married or the wedding planners. These venues have their own tie-ups with florists, decorators, videographers etc., but when clients like us who do designing and planning with our own vendors show up, they are not very cooperative and do not meet our requirements," she said.

### Changing roles

T. Shivakumar and Mahadev, partners at the Sindhoor Convention Centre in J.P. Nagar which has been a popular wedding venue for more than two decades, agreed that destinations on the outskirts have become more popular, resulting in the older ones changing roles over the years. "During Dhanur Masa and Ashada months (regarded inauspicious for marriage by some communities), we let the centre out for exhibitions and sales."

"But there is a shift in the choice of venues couples and families prefer these days. Most of them prefer outdoor venues because all the responsibilities like food, decor and more are taken care of by the venues, and it is just a one-time payment for the clients. Orthodox families still prefer a convention centre like ours that has a solid roof on top for many religious and spiritual reasons, but modern families are definitely shifting towards resorts or destination weddings," Mahadev explained.

### The downside

However, Mahadev argued that despite resorts being the popular venue choice for the last few years, lately there has been a slight increase in the demand for convention centres due to other logistical reasons. Outdoor weddings on the outskirts did well when Bengaluru did not have the same traffic as we have today. "Even if couples prefer venues on the outskirts, guests find it hard to commute. It is easier for guests to come to Sindhoor which is in a very easily accessible locality in J.P. Nagar. They can board the metro, take a bus, a cab or auto to the venue. But imagine visiting venues on Kanakpura Road or beyond Hebbal that hardly have connecting roads. Cabs and autos are not easily available and no public transport exists. Outdoor venues are suitable for couples that can arrange commute for the guests or only call guests that have their own vehicles," he added.

# *Bengaluru start-up CrisprBits develops PathCrisp for early detection of antibiotic resistance*

Antimicrobial resistance is a critical global health challenge, requiring early and accurate detection of resistance markers in hospital-acquired infections, particularly in ICU settings.

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based biotechnology start-up CrisprBits Private Limited has developed PathCrisp, a platform for early detection of antibiotic resistance in hospital-acquired infections.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a critical global health challenge, requiring early and accurate detection of resistance markers in hospital-acquired infections, particularly in ICU settings. A recent analysis in *The Lancet* found that AMR contributed to nearly 4.7 million deaths globally in 2021, with over a million directly caused by resistant infections. India alone has reported over a million AMR-associated deaths in 2019.

India has reported over a million AMR-associated deaths in 2019. GETTY IMAGES

### Detecting resistance

Carbapenems, a class of antibiotics, often serve as the last line of defence against multi-drug-resistant bacterial infections. However, New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM) driven carbapenem resistance is a major concern in hospitals across India, contributing significantly to the antimicrobial resistance burden. This enzyme enables bacteria to break down carbapenems and other beta-lactam antibiotics, severely limiting treatment options and posing a significant challenge in clinical settings.

CrisprBits' latest study, published in *Nature Scientific Reports*, showcases PathCrisp's ability to detect carbapenem resistance in bacterial samples from patients.

In the study, the PathCrisp platform was used to test the presence or absence of NDM in DNA isolated from 49 clinical bacterial samples. The data showed 100% concordance with other techniques used as the gold standard for the same. The study was a collaborative research between CrisprBits, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Puttaparthi, and Asoka University, NCR region.

Commenting on the platform, Dr. Reety Arora, Principal Scientist at CrisprBits and corresponding author of the study, said, "PathCrisp offers a fast and accurate alternative to traditional methods, leveraging CRISPR-Cas technology for unparalleled precision and instrument-light adaptability making it well-suited for point-of-care diagnostics. The test provides an end-to-end solution, delivering results within two hours. It operates at a constant temperature, eliminating the need for a thermocycler, and works directly on various samples, including bacterial cultures."

Dr. Ramakrishna Prasad, Global Medical Director, Swasti, and Co-Chair, WONCA SouthAsia Region - Research, a leading medical expert in infectious disease in Bengaluru, pointed out that the rising burden of carbapenem-resistant infections is driving up healthcare costs, prolonging hospital stays, and increasing ICU admissions and mortality.

"Traditional diagnostic methods, such as bacterial culture and PCR-based testing, can take 24-72 hours, delaying critical treatment decisions. In this scenario, a rapid and highly accurate test like PathCrisp, developed by CrisprBits, can enable direct detection from clinical samples without expensive equipment or prolonged culture processes, ensuring early recognition and targeted therapy," he said.

### Room-temperature stability

A release from the company noted that its future R&D efforts will focus on adapting PathCrisp for low-resource settings by developing lyophilized reagents for room-temperature stability. Additionally, smart engineering approaches will be explored to create a multiplexed version, expanding its diagnostic capabilities.

CrisprBits Pvt Ltd is one of the first Indian CRISPR-based companies developing high-quality and affordable One Health solutions in diagnostics and gene editing.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** FEBRUARY 21, 1975

## Properties of Mysore Ruler: Demand for CBI Probe

Bengaluru: The Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde today asked the Government to institute a CBI enquiry into the transaction relating to the properties of the former Maharaja of Mysore. Initiating a debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, Mr. Hegde said the Bangalore Royal Palace of the former ruler was under the control of an influential contractor and if he were to become the owner of the palace, the Chief Minister Mr. Devaraj Urs and his Government would be held responsible.

Mr. Hegde said that gold had been removed stealthily from the throne when it was sent for repairs.

## Rise in Cost of Milk Justified

Bangalore: The Agriculture Minister, Mr. N. Chikke Gowda, defended in the Karnataka Assembly today the recent enhancement of the selling price (Rs. 2 per litre) of milk supplied by the Bangalore Dairy and said it was the lowest compared to the rates in neighbouring States. The upward revision had not been done arbitrarily.

Making a statement on a call attention notice tabled by Mr. T.R. Shamanna (Ind) and Mr. M.S. Krishnan (CPI), the Minister, pointed out that increase in the cost of production had resulted in the diversion of the supplies from producers to the urban areas for higher prices. The dairy was experiencing a fall in the inflow of milk. To ensure steady inflow, the purchase price was enhanced by 10 paise a kg from October 1, 1974.

# Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

## IN SHORT

### What is Gondhali art form?

Gondhali is a folk art that involves singing and narration of mythical tales by a group of artistes before festivals and family functions, like marriages. The songs are usually about women deities Amba Bhavani and Yallamma, and the tales are from the Puranas and Mahabharata. It is an all-night event where a team of 3-5 artistes sing and play instruments for hours.

### Mention in Manasollasa

Gondhali art finds mention in Manasollasa, considered the Sanskrit encyclopaedia compiled by the Kalyani Chalukyan King Someshwara in the 12th century. Someshwara categorised Gondhali as the Bhil community. It is also mentioned in Nrutya Ratnavali, a book on art forms by Jayan Raya, the commander-in-chief of the Warangal Kakatiya kingdom.

### Oral tradition of community

The art form rooted in oral traditions has been passed on through the generations. Though the practice of organising Gondhali nights exists in several communities, the singers mostly hail from one community, called Gondhalis. It is believed that the Gondhali Samaj has over 90 sub-castes, out of which around seven sub-castes perform.

### Spread of the community

The Gondhali art is performed in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and parts of Andhra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. In Karnataka, the Gondhali community in concentrated in the districts along the Karnataka-Maharashtra border. Gondhali artistes were settled in and around the capitals of the Martha kingdom.

### Generational transfer of art

Most training is through the Smruti-Shruti tradition between generations. Most singers have learnt from their fathers, uncles and grand-fathers, by listening to them. There is no formal training system or method. Though the Amba Bhajans and Puranic tales remain at the core of the art form, singers tend to broad base their performance.

# Veteran Gondhali artist who infuses modernism into a medieval art form

Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar, the folk singer who won Padma Shri this year, talks about how this traditional art is passed on from one generation to the next

**Rishikesh Bahadur Desai**
BAGALKOT

It is not difficult to find the house of Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar, the veteran Gondhali artist. One has to get down at the Nava Nagar Bank Circle and ask for directions to the house of the Padma Shri awardee. The people of the area are very proud of 'Gondaliger Yankappa' living amidst them. A young shop-keeper pulls down the shutters and walks you to his house.

The first thing one notices about the man who received the Padma award for his contribution to the folk art form is how fit he is.

At 82, he walks upright, remains free of most lifestyle diseases, his hearing is intact, and he does not need spectacles. A few minutes into the conversation with him, you are floored by his elephantine memory and the wide knowledge base.

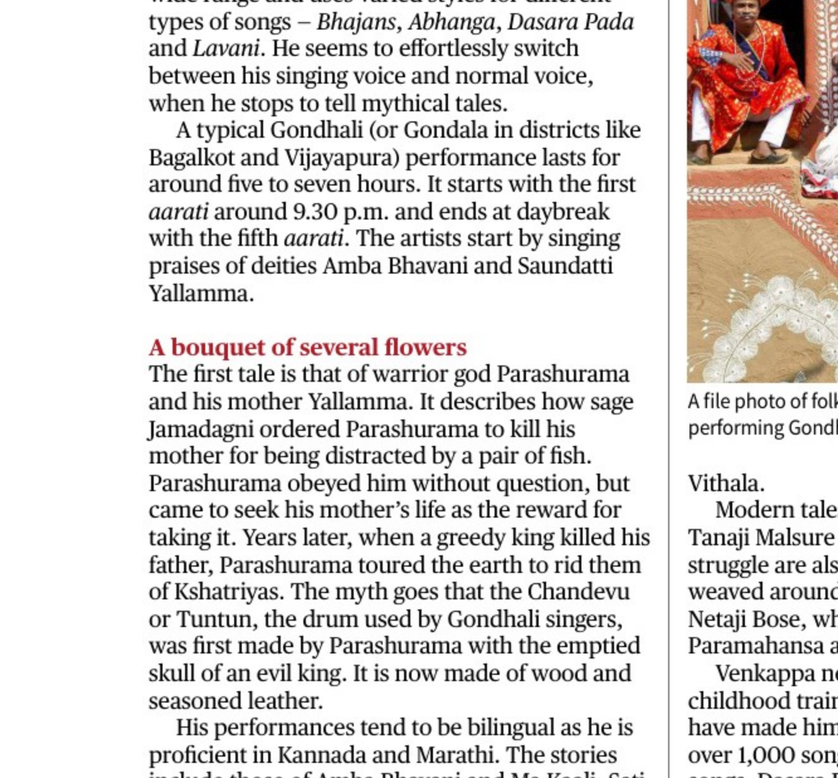
The real treat, however, is seeing him perform. His high-octane voice is captivating. He has a wide range and uses varied styles for different types of songs – *Bhajans*, *Abhanga*, *Dasara Pada* and *Lavani*. He seems to effortlessly switch between his singing voice and normal voice, when he stops to tell mythical tales.

A typical Gondhali (or Gondala in districts like Bagalkot and Vijayapura) performance lasts for around five to seven hours. It starts with the first *aarati* around 9.30 p.m. and ends at daybreak with the fifth *aarati*. The artists start by singing praises of deities Amba Bhavani and Saundatti Yallamma.

### A bouquet of several flowers

The first tale is that of warrior god Parashurama and his mother Yallamma. It describes how sage Jamadagni ordered Parashurama to kill his mother for being distracted by a pair of fish. Parashurama obeyed him without question, but came to seek his mother's life as the reward for taking it. Years later, when a greedy king killed his father, Parashurama toured the earth to rid them of Kshatriyas. The myth goes that the Chandevu or Tuntun, the drum used by Gondhali singers, was first made by Parashurama with the emptied skull of an evil king. It is now made of wood and seasoned leather.

His performances tend to be bilingual as he is proficient in Kannada and Marathi. The stories include those of Amba Bhavani and Ma Kaali, Sati Anasuya, Satya Narayana's grace and Lord Shiva's battle with his father-in-law, Daksha Prajapati. He drifts to Marathi folklore and Warkari songs. He sings of the Pandhara Pura Vithala, and his devotees like Namdev- Eknath-Tukaram, Chokha Mela, and others. He then starts singing the songs of Purandara Dasa praising lord Vithala.



Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar.

Modern tales of the battles of Shivaji Maharaj, Tanaji Malsure and those of India's freedom struggle are also featured. Some stories are weaved around characters like Gandhiji and Netaji Bose, while others are about Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda.

Venkappa never went to school. But his childhood training experience over the decades have made him a master story teller. He recalls over 1,000 songs and 150 tales. He sings folk songs, Dasara Pada, ballads of Shishunala Sharif, Vachana Sahitya, Tatva Pada and Devi Pada.

### Shaped by the world around

He gives lessons on communal harmony, about the need to protect and empower women, of sending children to school and about non-accumulation of wealth. Where did he develop this world view?

"You tend to pick it up along the way. I observed that during my father's time, all Gondhali artistes were the same and told the same tales. I decided to include everyday lessons in my performance. I used to ask my children to read aloud newspapers and listen to the radio,'' he said.

Over the years, Venkappa seems to have learnt to not think much of the compliments he gets. "People say my voice is good.

Do they know how I got it? It was perfected during our tours around the village, begging. As young children, my brothers and I would go around singing and seeking alms. We had to sing in loud voices to attract the housewives working in the kitchen or backyard. How else would the women notice us?'' he jokes.

### Early life and hardship

Born to Ambaji, a poor Gondhali artist from the Bagalkot old city, he was raised in the midst of songs and Puranic tales, the stories of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's valour and the affection of Yallamma. Ambaji had seven children and struggled to provide for his family, as the performances were restricted only to five months a year.

At the age of 10, Venkappa climbed the stage as an accompanying artist to his father and elder brother Hanumanthappa. The tragic death of Hanumanthappa in his youth was a big blow. And all the siblings were forced to go on singing tours to earn.

The family was landless, but lived in a *kutcha* house built on half-a-*gunta* donated by a land owner in old Bagalkot. But the area was submerged in the backwaters of the Almatti dam in the 1980s. A few years later, they were given a 600 square feet plot in new Bagalkot. The joint family now lives in a small house on that plot. Venkappa's five siblings and their children are all Gondhali artists. Venkappa's children Hanumanth and Ambaji are both young performers. Their children are in school and are not sure if they would take up the hereditary occupation.

The practice of organising Gondhali performances is prevalent among several communities, but the singers tend to come from a single caste group, which has now come to be known as Gondaligeru or Gondhali Samaj. It is an umbrella term for around 90 Bedagu or sub-castes. However, the singers tend to be from only seven sub-castes. Gondhalis rarely marry outsiders, though inter-marriage among sub-castes is allowed. They are listed among Other Backward Classes in Karnataka.

"It is said that during Shivaji Maharaj's time, there were Gondhali singers from Maratha, Panchal and even Brahmin communities. But now, it has remained restricted to one community,'' Venkappa said.

Venkappa has bitter memories of his childhood. "During the overnight performances, people appreciated our singing and even fell at our feet. But the next morning, when we went seeking food, they would throw it at us. We were not given water in cups. We were asked to hold out our palms to drink water as we were seen as meat-eaters who would defile the cups. However, a lot has changed now a days," he said. "As a young man, I used to be always upset at such discrimination. But my uncle told me that caste was not created by God, but by man. It did not mean much then, but now I have begun to fully appreciate it."

He believes that though a Gondhali artist is trained by his parents or relatives, learns the songs and tales by heart to recite them at will, a really good artist is one who improvises. "He has to pick stories from his surroundings. He has to turn anecdotes and happenings in his city into moral stories. Some artists use newspaper articles in their performances,'' he said.

Gondali performance during the Janapada Jatre in Bidar. FILE PHOTO

A file photo of folk dancers from Maharashtra performing Gondhal Dance.

Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar singing during the Bharat Hunnime festival at his home in Bagalkot. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### Bleak future of art

But Venkappa is not very hopeful of the future of the art form. "If Gondhali art were to vanish tomorrow, it is not because there is no audience, but because there will be no performers. People think that Gondhalis artists are blessed beings who sing *bhajans*. They do not realise that we are human beings with families to raise. There is high regard for the art, but no remuneration,'' he said. He recalls performing for five fistfuls of rice or three coconuts. "Now people pay cash. Some of them are very liberal and pay more money than we expect. But some pay so little that it does not match our bus fare,'' he said.

He feels the Union and State governments should take steps to protect and preserve the art. "The honorarium to senior artists is just around ₹2,000 per month. It should be revised. They should also be entitled to some benefits, like travel allowances and subsidies, health insurance, and low-cost housing. The Union Government should organise more cultural programmes and set up a Gondhali academy to train young artists," he said.

At one time, every Gondhali man trained to be a singer and performer. "That may be because we had no education, owned no land nor did we have capital or the acumen for business. However, the situation is different now. Most of our children are educated. Some boys and girls are taking up jobs in schools and anganwadis, some have even joined private companies and banks as clerks. Hard times have forced senior artists to discourage their children from embracing Gondhali art. The demand for Gondhali performances has not decreased. Instead, it has increased. However, there are not enough performers," he said.

### Recognition

The Karnataka Folklore University recognised his talent and presented him with a honourary doctorate. The university citation says that Venkappa has dedicated over 70 years to performing Gondhali folk music and storytelling and trained over 1,000 students free of cost, ensuring the transmission of Gondhali tradition. In his Mann Ki Baat address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Venkappa.

He spoke of his life long efforts in reviving and sustaining Karnataka's folk traditions. Modi described him as a "cultural torch bearer" who has dedicated his life to preserving India's rich cultural heritage. He was also invited, along with his sons, to watch the Republic Day parade.

## Absence of V-Cs of Kerala universities at meet raises eyebrows

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government gained political mileage on Thursday by bringing together leaders from four States and across the political spectrum to oppose the Draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025, but the conspicuous absence of most Vice-Chancellors from State-run universities stuck out like a sore thumb.

The absence highlighted the strained relationship between the government and the interim V-Cs, appointed by former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

Some V-Cs had earlier expressed reservations over a circular issued by the Principal Secretary of Higher Education for university participation in the convention "against" the draft regulations. The directive sparked objections.Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan intervened and the event was subsequently repositioned as a forum for discussing the UGC regulations with the word "against" omitted from official communication.

Referring to the V-Cs' absence, Higher Education Minister R. Bindu said they would have attended had they possessed a sense of propriety.

# Multi-State organ retrieval operation saves many lives

A soldier from Kerala was declared brain dead after an accident; in an operation facilitated by a Bengaluru hospital, his corneas, liver, kidney, heart and lungs reached recipients in other cities

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

An accident victim from Kerala gave a new lease of life to many, thanks to a major organ retrieval and transportation operation facilitated by a Bengaluru hospital on February 19, involving health facilities in other parts of India.

According to a press release, the donor, a serving soldier on leave, suffered severe head injuries in the road accident at Kasaragod in Kerala. He was shifted to the Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore (CHAFB) for treatment on February 17 and was subsequently declared brain dead. After his relatives selflessly agreed to donate his organs, in coordination with the Jeevasarthakathe, Karnataka's State Organ and Tissue Transplant Authority, an organ-retrieval team flew in from the Army Hospital (Research and Referral), New Delhi, on an Indian Air Force aircraft.

**Lifeline:** The team behind the organ retrieval and transportation, at the Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The team retrieved the soldier's corneas, liver, and kidneys. One of his kidneys was transplanted locally at the CHAFB. A team from Chennai arrived on flight to retrieve the heart and the lungs for the MGM and Gleneagles hospitals respectively to help patients in need, the release added.

To ensure seamless transportation, the CHAFB closely coordinated with the Bengaluru Police to establish a "green corridor", which facilitated swift and uninterrupted transfer of organs from the operation theatre to the airport, significantly reducing time and preserving organ viability, the release said.

"This is the first time organs were transported to multiple cities, underscoring the growing collaboration between military and civilian medical institutions in addressing critical healthcare needs," it added. The CHAFB has been a key institution in organ donation initiatives and has previously conducted multiple organ retrieval procedures, it said.

## Ex-councillor's husband killed in Telangana; family points fingers at local leaders of BRS

**The Hindu Bureau**
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

Nagavelli Rajalinga Murthy, 47, husband of the former municipal councillor Sarala, and also a social activist, was allegedly stabbed to death by masked assailants in the heart of Bhupalpally in Telangana on Wednesday night.

The gruesome murder of Murthy, who had filed a petition in the local court against the persons at the helm in the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government last year over the sinking of piers of the Medigadda barrage of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) during the BRS rule, has sent shock waves in the coal town.

The family members of the deceased blamed some local leaders of the BRS of masterminding Murthy's murder, a charge rejected outright by the BRS former MLA Gandra Venkataramana Reddy.

The relatives staged a sit-in on the highway in the town late on Wednesday demanding a discreet enquiry to unravel what they termed as a 'conspiracy' behind the chilling murder. Sarala, wife of the deceased, on Thursday lodged a complaint with the Bhupalpally police. She accused Renukuntla Sanjeev, Pingali Srimanth, Kothuri Kumar and another person of stabbing her husband to death over a land dispute.

Ms. Sarala told the media that her husband "was brutally killed by the assailants at the instance of the BRS local leaders for waging a legal battle against corruption".

Based on her complaint, the Bhupalpally police have registered a case.

## ED attaches properties of Tamil film director Shankar

**R. Sivaraman**
CHENNAI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Chennai Zonal Office has provisionally attached three immovable properties worth about ₹10.11 crore registered in the name of film director and producer S. Shankar under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

This provisional attachment was done by the central agency on Monday (February 17, 2025) .

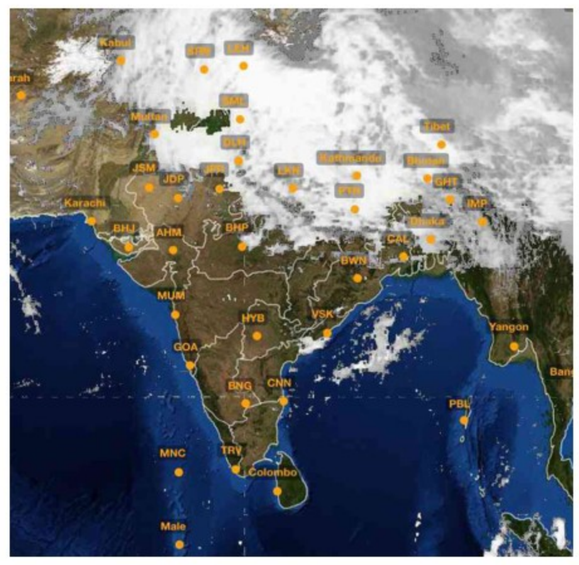
The ED initiated investigation on the basis of a complaint filed by one Aarur Tamilnadan against Mr. Shankar before the 13th Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Egmore, Chennai, on May 19, 2011. The complaint alleged that the storyline of the movie *Enthiran* (Robot) starring Rajinikanth and directed by Mr. Shankar, was copied from a story titled *Jiguba* authored by him thereby rendering Mr. Shankar liable for violations under the Copyright Act, 1957, and the (then) Indian Penal Code.

The ED said its investigation revealed that Mr. Shankar received a substantial remuneration of ₹11.5 crore for his multifaceted contributions to *Enthiran*, including story development, screenplay, dialogues, and direction.

*Enthiran* grossed ₹290 crore worldwide, making it an all-time blockbuster at the time.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 31.8 | 17.2 | Kozhikode | — | 36.5 | 26.4 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 34.5 | 19.0 | Kurnool | — | 37.5 | 23.4 |
| Aizawl | — | 30.1 | 12.2 | Lucknow | — | 27.4 | 13.5 |
| Allahabad | — | 31.6 | 15.4 | Madurai | — | 35.0 | 21.1 |
| Bengaluru | — | 33.2 | 19.6 | Mangaluru | — | 33.3 | 24.0 |
| Bhopal | — | 31.6 | 14.4 | Mumbai | — | 36.3 | 20.0 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 32.4 | 22.1 | Mysuru | — | 34.0 | 18.4 |
| Chandigarh | 3 | 24.1 | 13.4 | New Delhi | 0.9 | 27.4 | 15.0 |
| Chennai | — | 31.4 | 23.2 | Patna | — | 29.4 | 17.1 |
| Coimbatore | — | 35.0 | 21.6 | Port Blair | — | 31.3 | 24.2 |
| Dehradun | 2 | 20.4 | 13.0 | Puducherry | — | 31.7 | 22.2 |
| Gangtok | 3 | 13.1 | 8.4 | Pune | — | 36.8 | 19.7 |
| Goa | — | 35.0 | 24.0 | Raipur | — | 35.0 | 20.6 |
| Guwahati | — | 29.0 | 13.5 | Ranchi | 12 | 26.7 | 15.4 |
| Hubballi | — | 35.0 | 22.0 | Shillong | — | 20.2 | 7.4 |
| Hyderabad | — | 35.4 | 22.1 | Shimla | 3 | 20.3 | 6.5 |
| Imphal | — | 26.4 | 15.1 | Srinagar | 2 | 10.7 | 4.4 |
| Jaipur | 0.2 | 28.3 | 16.0 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 32.2 | 24.3 |
| Kochi | — | 31.4 | 25.6 | Tiruchi | — | 33.5 | 21.6 |
| Kohima | — | 22.6 | 8.3 | Vijayawada | — | 33.4 | 22.6 |
| Kolkata | — | 27.8 | 21.8 | Visakhapatnam | — | 32.1 | 24.0 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .— | .60 | 19 | 164 | 121 | |
| Bengaluru | .8 | .15 | 46 | 134 | 103 | |
| Chennai | .5 | .9 | 33 | 63 | 93 | |
| Delhi | .23 | 129 | 35 | 189 | 231 | |
| Hyderabad | .9 | .54 | 42 | 150 | 146 | |
| Kolkata | .7 | .67 | 35 | 57 | 73 | |
| Lucknow | .9 | .87 | 60 | 249 | 203 | |
| Mumbai | .27 | .64 | .— | 220 | 212 | |
| Pune | .20 | 131 | 47 | 178 | 136 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .— | .— | .— | — | — | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rajgir, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 330 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 34

**Air Quality Code:** Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## Sri Lankan Navy arrests 10 fishermen from Rameswaram

**The Hindu Bureau**
RAMESWARAM

The Sri Lankan Navy apprehended 10 fishermen from Rameswaram and seized three trawlers on Wednesday.

According to officials of the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department, 474 tokens were issued at the Rameswaram fishing harbour on Wednesday, and the fishermen were set to return to the shore around 3 p.m. the same day.

However, a surveillance team of the Sri Lankan Navy apprehended the three trawlers on charges of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. The fishermen were taken to the Naval Port later, the officials added.

The Harbour police in Ramanathapuram district said the arrested fishermen hailed from Thangachimadam and Rameswaram. The arrest comes on the heels of the DMK staging a demonstration in Ramanathapuram condemning the Union government for failing to take steps to put an end to such arrests.

DMK MP K. Kanimozhi said the fishermen had demanded that the Centre arrange direct talks with a fishermen delegation from the Northern Province of Sri Lanka to resolve the issue. Fishermen leaders said that since the beginning of 2025, around 90 fishermen had been arrested and over 10 trawlers seized. Sri Lankan courts imposed hefty fines on the arrested fishermen, and jailed them.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday wrote to Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar calling for effective diplomatic measures to secure the immediate release of all the fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka, along with their boats. He urged Mr. Jaishankar to convene a Joint Working Group meeting to arrive at a permanent diplomatic solution to the issue.

**ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED** ELCOT
(ELCOT) CHENNAI - 600 035.
**TENDER NOTICE**
ELCOT invites bids for supply of the following tender

| | |
|---|---|
| Tender No. | ELCOT/Proc/OT/33921/Procurement of DMR/2024-25 |
| Tender Details | Tender for Supply of VHF Digital Mobile Radios with complete Accessories for Avadi and Tambaram Commissionerates of the Police Department |
| Pre- Bid Meeting | 28.02.2025 @ 11.30 AM |
| Tender Submission Due Date and Time | 14.03.2025 @ 03.00 PM |
| Tender Opening Date & Time | 14.03.2025 @ 04.00 PM |
| Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 7,50,000/- |
| e-Portal Charges | Rs.11,800/- (including GST) |

The Bidders may download the tender documents, help documents and user manuals from **https://tntenders.gov.in**
GENERAL MANAGER (PROC)
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
692, II Floor, M.H.U. Complex, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Ch-35
e-mail: **md@elcot.in** URL: **www.elcot.in**
DIPR/690/Tender/2025

**INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Bihar)
Sheikhpura, Patna-800014 (Bihar, India)
Tele. : 0612-2297631, 2297099; Fax : 0612-2297225, Website : www.igims.org
E-mail : director@igims.org
**E-TENDER NOTCE**
**(E-Tendering only on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)**
**E-Tender Notice No.: 29/2024-2025/CBT/IGIMS / Store**
IGIMS, Patna invites e-tender from eligible and qualified agencies for the Conduct of online Computer Based Tests (CBT) for recruitment of various posts at this Institute.
The last date & time for submission / uploading of complete documents at **www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** is **18/03/2025.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **06/03/2025** at Administrative Block. Details of works and terms & conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute website **www.igims.org & www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.**
The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit **www.igims.org** and **www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** for Corrigendum / Amendments, if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.
**DIRECTOR, I.G.I.M.S., PATNA**

Email ID: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
**GOVT. OF ODISHA**
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,**
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR**
**Identification No. NCB-36 / RWCKJR / 2024-25**
**No. 864 // Date: 19.02.2025**

1. Name of the work :- Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Keonjhar.
2. Total No. of Packages :- 03 (Three) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost (Approx.) :- From Rs.126.03 lakh to Rs.286.88 lakh (Approximately)
4. Period of completion :- 60 Calendar Months.
5. Other details :-

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | No. of Work | Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From | To |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar | NCB-36 / RWCKJR / 2024-25 | 03 Nos. | 25.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M | 11.03.2025 Upto 5.00 P.M |

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in
O-1515 : Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.
OIPR-25177/11/0048/2425

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA)
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560 009.
No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/4050/2024-25 Date: 20.02.2025
**INVITATION FOR TENDER**
**(Only through KPP Portal)**
BWSSB invites tender in two cover tender system from eligible tenderers for the work of **providing IoT and RFID based technology to the filling points at GLRs and to the proposed Cauvery connect centres.**
Amount put to tender: **Rs. 330.44 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 4,96,000/-.**
Last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **07.03.2025** upto **16:00 hrs**. The technical bids will be opened on **10.03.2025** at **16:05 hrs**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/MIA/5225/2024-25 **Chief Engineer (Design & QA)**

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**
**INVITATION FOR TENDER**
**(Through KPP Portal Only)**
**BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.**

**Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.**

| Sl. No. | Division | IFT Number | Sl. No. | Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount | Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender | Date & Time for Opening of Tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (West-2) | BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/5218/ 2024-25 Dated: 18-02-2025 | 1 | Rs. 33,96,443/- / Rs. 68,000/- | 28-02-2025 Upto 3.00 PM | 01-03-2025 After 3.00 PM |
| | | | 2 | Rs. 34,13,136/- / Rs. 68,500/- | | |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)**

**Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | (Central Stores) | BWSSB/EE(CStr)/AEE/ ASO/JE/STR/753/2024-25 Dated: 18-02-2025 | 1 | Rs. 91,24,200/- / Rs. 1,82,500/- | 04-03-2025 Upto 4.00 PM | 06-03-2025 at 12.00 PM |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central Stores)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/Adverto/5200/2024-25

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**9th Death Anniversary**

**Mrs. Premila Varghese**
**W/o.T.M.Varghese**
**" You will Remain in our hearts forever. "**
***Deeply Mourned by:***
**T.M.Varghese & Family**

**IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES**
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
**Bengaluru:** 98455 29981,
**Hubballi:** 0836 - 2338600
**Mangaluru:** 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: **www.thehinduads.com**
**DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is given to the public that :
(1) **Mrs.Sudha,** claims to be the absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing Survey No.61/5 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas;
(2) **Mrs. SUJATHA N.,** claims to be the absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of the agricultural property bearing Survey No.61/6 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas;
(3) **Mrs. ARUNA N.,** claims to be the absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of the agricultural property bearing Survey No.61/7 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas;
(4) **Mrs. KALPANA N.,** claims to be the absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of the agricultural property bearing Survey No.61/8 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas;

All situated at Kuppahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, and morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and herein after referred to as Item No.1 to Item No.4 of the Schedule Property respectively, claiming to have acquired by an Order and Final Decree dated 23.01.2017 passed by the Hon'ble Court of the Principal Senior Civil Judge and CJM, Chikkaballapura, in terms of Compromise Petition filed under Order XXIII Rule 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in a suit for partition and separate possession, filed by the them against their mother Smt.Lakshmamma and brother Sri.Ajendra in O.S.No.197/2016. They are intending to sell the Item No.1 to 4 of the Schedule Property, in favour of our client and we are investigating the title and claim on behalf of our client.

All person(s) claiming any form of right, title, claim, ownership, interest, charge, encumbrance, etc., of whatsoever nature in the Item No.1 to 4 of the Schedule Property/ or any part thereof, either by way of a sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance, lien, minor claims, transfers of any nature, beneficial interests, possession, undivided share, joint ownership either as joint tenants or tenants in common, tenants, occupants, or otherwise, or any other are hereby required to make the same known / raise their objection to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, with documentary proof, failing which the said sale will be completed, without any reference to such claim (s), and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived. Our client would not be bound by any claim/s lodged after the said period and be entitled to proceed to purchase the Schedule Property without reference to any person whatsoever.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

**ITEM NO.1 – BELONGING TO PARTY No.1 :-** All that piece and parcel of Agriculture (dry) land in Survey No.61/5 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas, situated at KuppahalliVillage, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : Private Lands in Sy.No.61/4A, West by : Land retained by Sri.Ajendra in Sy.No.61/4B, North by : Nandi Kuppahalli Road, South by : Land allotted to Vendor No.2 (Item No.2 property)

**ITEM NO.2- BELONGING TO PARTY No. 2 :-** All that piece and parcel of Agriculture (dry) land in Survey No.61/6 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas, situated at KuppahalliVillage, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : Private Lands in Sy.No.61/4A , West by : Land retained by Sri.Ajendra in Sy.No.61/4B, North by : Land allotted to Vendor No.1 (Item No.1 property), South by : Land allotted to Vendor No.3 (Item No.3 property)

**ITEM NO.3 – BELONGING TO PARTY No. 3 :-** All that piece and parcel of Agriculture (dry) land in Survey No.61/7 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas, situated at KuppahalliVillage, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : Private Lands in Sy.No.61/4A, West by : Land retained by Sri.Ajendra in Sy.No.61/4B, North by : Land allotted to Vendor No.2 (Item No.2 property), South by : Land allotted to Vendor No.4 (Item No.4 property)

**ITEM NO.4 – BELONGING TO PARTY No. 4 :-** All that piece and parcel of Agriculture (dry) land in Survey No.61/8 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas, situated at KuppahalliVillage, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : Private Lands in Sy.No.61/4A, West by : Land retained by Sri.Ajendra in Sy.No.614B, North by : Land allotted to Vendor No.3 (Item No.3 property), South by :Government Rock and Hillock.

**Smt.Yovini Rajesh Rohra, Advocate,**
**M/s.Chander Kumar & Associates, # 510, 4th Floor, Oxford Towers,**
**139, Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bangalore – 560 008. Ph : 41320188/ 90 / 425**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the General Public that our client has entered into an **Agreement of Sale** to purchase the **Schedule Property** from its present owners **Sri. C. Shivkumar,** S/o. V. Chinnaswamy, **who had acquired the same under a Deed of Absolute Sale Dated 09-09-2011 from the legal heirs / children and grand children of Anthony Sylvester.**

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the **Schedule Property** may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 15 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the residential Property bearing **BDA Site No.136, at present having Municipal No.3, PID No.78-111-3, Situated at 10 th Main Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore and bounded on the:**

East by : Private Property — West by : Private Property
North by : Road – 10 th Cross — South by : Private Property.
**MEASURING: East to West : 20 Feet. North to South : 30 Feet.**
In all measuring **600 Square Feet** along with the building standing thereon.

**(S.A.H.RAZVI & ARIF PASHA) PRIME LAW ASSOCIATES**
No.60, 2nd Floor, M.M.Complex, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051. **Ph: 9845049766 / 9243132714**
Bangalore: Dated: 21-02-2025

## New line in Delhi

### Rekha Gupta should find the governance challenges easier to handle

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s appointment of a first-time Member of the Legislative Assembly, Rekha Gupta, as the new Chief Minister of Delhi, is in line with its preference for relatively junior and fresh faces in leadership positions. Ms. Gupta has risen through the ranks of the Sangh Parivar and won Delhi University Students Union and municipal elections, before being elected to the Assembly from Shalimar Bagh. She has held positions in the party and its frontal organisations. Now, entrusted with the position of the Chief Minister, Ms. Gupta, 50, has her task cut out. She has to balance community and sectional interests within the party, command authority over the bureaucracy, and balance multiple power centres within the unique and complex governance architecture of Delhi. All levels of the government in Delhi are now under the control of the BJP, which might improve governance in the city. Ms. Gupta is the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi, the second woman Chief Minister of Delhi from the BJP, and the only woman among the party's 14 Chief Ministers across India. A woman in the top post allows the BJP to deflect other factional claims in the party, and possibly boosts its popular image. Ms. Gupta also represents the trader bania community which has been a bedrock of the BJP's politics in Delhi for decades. The new leader ticks many boxes for the party, and her success depends on how she grows into the challenging role.

The BJP has tried to balance caste and community representation in the new Council of Ministers. In Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, the party has found someone to represent the Jat community, in Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the Sikh community, in Ashish Sood, the Punjabi Hindu community, in Ravinder Indraj Singh, Dalits, in Kapil Mishra, Brahmins, and in Pankaj Kumar Singh, the Purvanchali community. The new government has a multitude of governance challenges awaiting it. The problems of air and water pollution are issues that need a solution that go beyond the boundaries of Delhi; issues such as law and order are under the purview of the Union Home Ministry. Ms. Gupta's experience of being a three-term municipal councillor could help, as would the fact that the neighbouring Haryana and Uttar Pradesh also have BJP governments. The BJP has returned to power in the national capital after 26 years, having offered the electorate a raft of welfare schemes to achieve that. There are the issues of unemployment and underemployment, and affordable housing and infrastructure that require the government's attention.

## Watering down

### Pollution in Ganga needs long-term solutions, not denialism

Official estimates suggest that around 45 crore visitors, nearly a third of India's population, have already been to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh Mela, which began in mid-January. With such a massive influx, even a small percentage of individuals who carry microbes could trigger extensive chains of disease transmission. The Ganga at Prayagraj, where devotees not only have ritual baths but also drink the water, inevitably becomes a complex receptacle of microbiomes. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which is responsible for monitoring and controlling air, water and land pollution, has been assessing water quality at Prayagraj since the festival began. Its reports, which are publicly accessible, present a mixed picture. On January 14, which was Makar Sankranti, one of the most auspicious bathing days, faecal coliform levels, a key indicator of contamination from human and animal waste, were at a high – nearly 11,000 units at the Sangam Ghat, which is more than four times the permissible limit of 2,500 units. At the Old Naini Bridge Ghat, along the Yamuna, the count was even higher, at 33,000 units. However, on other days, these numbers dropped to as low as 200 and 780 units. Similar fluctuations were observed for other parameters of water quality such as biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and dissolved oxygen (DO). A CPCB report submitted to the National Green Tribunal on February 3 stated that the water quality on January 12-13, 2025 was not fit for bathing, let alone drinking, despite bathing having a higher tolerance limit. However, the report also noted a reduction in organic pollution due to freshwater intrusion upstream. It further observed that the sheer number of people bathing in the river during the Maha Kumbh Mela, particularly on auspicious days, led to an inevitable spike in faecal contamination.

These fluctuations are not exclusive to the Kumbh Mela. Routine monitoring of water quality by the CPCB has consistently recorded similar patterns, reinforcing the fact that, regardless of what the festival may be, water in the Ganga at Prayagraj is not fit for consumption, whether as a few drops or bucketful. The river's suitability for bathing fluctuates based on water flow and dilution. Considering these adverse findings, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's dismissal of this scientific data as "baseless" is misleading. The National Mission for Clean Ganga is based on a sustained effort to restore the river's health, and Uttar Pradesh, its largest beneficiary, must prioritise continuous cleanup efforts instead of undermining legitimate pollution concerns. The Kumbh Mela highlights the urgent need for long-term solutions, not denialism. Science can come to the aid of the faithful; it is in no one's interest to undermine scientific findings in the name of encouraging a spiritual journey.

# The transformation of Koraput's tribal food basket

**Rama Narayanan**
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Koraput, a district in Odisha, is a beautiful landscape, rich in biodiversity and home to a predominantly tribal population. But there is also a paradox. There is rampant poverty and undernutrition. There is no dearth of government schemes, in the form of direct feeding programmes or schemes for livelihood activities. Yet, undernutrition levels remain high. According to an estimate based on the National Family Health Survey-5 data (2019-21) 43% of children under five years of age are stunted (low-height- for- age) and 33% are underweight. Only 17% are fed an adequate diet. More than 50% of women are anaemic.

The question is what is it that people can do themselves order to have access to healthier diets and a better environment?

**A transformation toward nutrition security**

Between 2013 and 2022, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) embarked on a community-based model of nutrition literacy in order to empower tribal communities to take action in diversifying their household food basket with nutritious foods. The aim was to facilitate a transformative process, spearheaded by the community, to move towards nutrition security. As it is an agricultural population with small and marginal land holdings and engaged in subsistence farming, a nutrition-sensitive farming approach to maximise and diversify food production was adopted along with sanitation hygiene and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices (IYCF). Since transformation begins at the individual level, it was decided to build the capacity of a core group of adult men and women through a residential training programme.

The first step was to sensitise the community to its own nutritional status. This involved assessing the nutritional status of women, children, adolescent boys and girls by taking their height and weight, consolidating secondary data and presenting them to the community. After subsequent discussions, villagers agreed to select a few men and women from every village, representing various caste groups, to undergo a residential training programme on key nutrition concepts, such as a balanced diet, IYCF practices, the role of dietary diversity, sanitation and hygiene, and enabling nutrition sensitive agriculture that included crop diversity, backyard poultry and, wherever possible, pisciculture.

A few residential training programmes, each about two and a half days long, were held at periodic intervals over six months. These were activity based and included group work, discussions, role play followed by an analysis of the situation and possible solutions.

The approach was to engage participants in a dialogue to discuss theoretical aspects from the perspective of their own knowledge rooted in the social, cultural, economic and political context. Participants discussed how caste, class and gender dimensions affected nutrition security of different family members at the household level. They compared the new learning with their existing knowledge and were satisfied when some of their existing knowledge was reiterated. Their perception of dietary diversity was based on the 'dish count' rather than the 'food group' count.

As one participant remarked, 'we never thought about having both dhal and vegetables in the everyday diet. So long as one was there as accompaniment to rice we were satisfied.' They were happy to know that they were the custodians of a variety of traditional rice varieties.

> A community-based model of nutrition literacy is leading to change, with the predominantly tribal population in the district aware of the importance of nutrition security

**Collective power**

While social spaces are usually hierarchically determined, the residential training gave them an opportunity to engage with people from other villages and with both genders. They planned how they could introduce and cultivate more nutritious crops on different types of land and in their home gardens. They explored the advantages of collective decision making and action rather than individual efforts in demanding government entitlements, and realised that their efforts to improve household nutrition security would have to go beyond the boundaries of their own villages to the panchayat level. Messages and songs were created and composed by the participants on various themes such as a balanced diet, dietary diversity, hygiene, sanitation and support to women. While they were aware of a few government entitlements, they were eager to learn about many more.

More than 200 men and women from over 70 villages were trained in the residential training programmes, becoming the 'community champions' in transforming themselves and their communities. They identified further training needs mainly to improve agricultural production covering seed treatment, vermi-compost use, the use of organic fertilizers, mushroom production, post-harvest technology and value addition. These training programmes were organised in the villages. Over 10 years, about 1,000 men and women were trained in various aspects of agriculture, animal husbandry and pisciculture such that a community resource base for nutrition security was created to address underlying issues of undernutrition through household nutrition security.

The community champions shared various health and nutrition messages with their families, friends and fellow villagers when engaged in agricultural work, on their way to the market, in women self help group meetings, or while at a tea shop or even during festival events. They also convened village meetings to discuss creating hunger-free villages.

They led by example. They undertook a range of activities, both individually and collectively. Those who had upland began cultivating a variety of crops. Many of them started growing more vegetables and fruits. Home gardens were revived and the diversity of crops increased from about four crops at the beginning of the programme to nine crops at the time of completion.

One woman champion got her land back from lease in order to resume agricultural activities. Another, who was landless, took a piece of land on lease to grow food crops. Another landless woman began growing vegetables using the foundation of the house she was constructing. Paddy fields that had been kept fallow after harvest were now used for pulse cultivation, making use of the residual moisture.

Diversity in crop production was seen in Mothpera and Deragida (names changed) panchayats in Boiparida block. While earlier, 71% of households were cultivating only two to three varieties of crops, more than 60% were cultivating four to five varieties of crops at the end of the project. About 90% of households had operational home gardens for about five months at the start of the programme. Towards the end, in more than 50% of households, home gardens were operational for more than seven to nine months. From growing four varieties of crops earlier, households began growing nine to 11 varieties. Household dietary diversity improved. There was a significant increase in the consumption of pulses, leafy vegetables, tubers, fruits, poultry, fish and wild food.

Some prepared biocompost and used it for their home gardens. Most of the male champions began to make decision on agricultural decision alongwith their wives. Women champions worked closely with Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and Anganwadi workers to spread nutrition messages. Sanya of Maligad village (name changed) said, 'I give my daughter leafy vegetables and ripe fruits, dhal, egg because she is anaemic and was recently discharged from hospital.'

**Facilitating change**

Villagers also monitored the direct feeding programme under the Integrated Child Development Services. In Lecha (name changed) village, there was no anganwadi centre. The community women champions organised village meetings and spoke about the need for one. The villagers passed a resolution for the sanction of an anganwadi in their village and the male champions followed this up with the block office till the centre was sanctioned. They supervised the building construction, and upon completion organised an inauguration. They also revived defunct village structures for nutrition security such as the community grain bank, discussed their village situation in the gram sabha (village council) meetings and developed an overall plan for hunger-free villages.

The wheels of change have been set in motion in Koraput's villages with the people pursuing their health and nutrition security.

# The long and winding road of India-China relations

**Avinash Godbole**
is Professor and Associate Academic Dean at Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities (JSLH), O. P. Jindal Global University

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was in China in January 2025, during which India and China made several announcements on the future of their bilateral relations. He met Wang Yi, who is China's Foreign Minister,the Director of the Office of Central Commission of Foreign Affairs and also a politburo member of the party, and also Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party.

The Indian statement after this meeting indicated that the process of restoration of several aspects of bilateral relations including media and think tank exchanges, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, and bilateral flights is on the cards for the summer of 2025.

**Possible reasons**

India and China have attempted to move forward after more than four years of tense and stalemate-based relations since the clashes in Galwan in June 2020. Stalemates cannot be permanent. Both sides have made their points and moved to the détente. One can argue that there are several reasons for the timing of this bilateral agreement, the main being the election of Donald Trump, who is a known disruptor and unpredictable in his ways of doing business. The other is about economic concerns in China and in India in recent times.

India and China have been bracing for the Trump impact especially when by the middle of October last year his election was already beginning to look more likely to happen. This possibility may have pushed the October 2024 de-escalation agreement between India and China, and Mr. Trump's gigantic electoral victory in November 2024 may have pushed the January 2025 agreement between India and China. There is a historic logic to this as well. China agreed to normalising relations with India, after the 1962 war, only in the backdrop of the backlash in the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Again, China may have agreed to normalise its relations with India given that it had to brace for the Trump impact. Thus, there is both internal and external logic around the restoration of normalcy.

> Though India and China have attempted to move forward after Galwan, abundant caution may be the best way forward

However, since we do not know whether patrolling rights have been/are fully restored or whether demobilisation is in its advanced stages, such an absence of communication on the part of the government raises doubts and questions needlessly.

**At the LAC**

The Government of India has maintained absolute silence on the status of de-escalation, demilitarisation and demobilisation of the fairly large number of troops. Troops were mobilised and deployed on the border, first during the tensions of May-June 2020, and then in even larger numbers in the aftermath of the June 15, 2020 clashes. These troops were on active duty or in newly created barracks close to the six points of tension along the border including in Galwan, Depsang Bulge, Charding Nala, Gogra Post and Hot Springs and on the north bank of the Pangong lake.

There is also no clarity whether the large number of People's Liberation Army troops on the Chinese side, before and after the clashes, have retreated to their bases. Confirmation of this would mean that the actual restoration of normalcy on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has been achieved. India has also made it clear in the aftermath of 2020 that it was China that had violated the several agreements and protocols the two sides had signed. One is not sure about whether these have been rectified in a verifiable way. This in turn can only be established when patrolling rights have not only been agreed to but also exercised.

The briefing in October 2024, by the Foreign Secretary, prior to the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan in this respect, was already guarded. It only alluded to an agreement that would lead to the "process of disengagement and resolution of issues that emerged in 2020". A follow-up briefing on this issue would have been useful and necessary to make it clear that India had not given up on its position on the bilateral relations.

India's principled stand in dealing with China in the aftermath of the 2020 crisis has been that the stability on the border and the restoration of the status quo ante are the preconditions to progress in other aspects of bilateral relations. However, it was China that reiterated that India should move on from the clashes and not let the border standoff be a hindrance to the development of overall bilateral relations in the economic, political and social sectors.

**The need for clarity**

India's silence on the progress on the status of restoration of status quo ante makes it appear as though the Chinese position of "moving on" is succeeding and that India is abandoning its position of stability and restoration before there is progress on other aspects. It was always known that the process of restoring normalcy would be long drawn and fraught with challenges. In addition, the worldviews of India and China will remain divergent as their ideas about the world order are not going to converge anytime soon. India-China relations have seen several cyclical ups and downs in the Xi Jinping era. Therefore, abundant caution would be the best way forward. The Indian government's lack of clarity does not boost one's confidence.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Delhi's new Chief Minister**

That Rekha Gupta, a first-time MLA, has become the Chief Minister of Delhi, 'defying all odds' if I may add, needs comment. The so-called unanimous "selection" of the leader of BJP's Delhi legislature party, that took almost two weeks, smacks of the Congress's culture. There was hectic lobbying by the over half-a-dozen aspirants. This is because the Delhi unit of the BJP has several defectors from other political parties. Giant killer Parvesh Verma could not make it perhaps because of the party's strategic policy to focus on women. Whether this will pay dividends to the BJP or not, only time will tell. The "unity" forged by the party's high command should last the five years for Ms. Gupta to serve the people of Delhi. If the party's manifesto is not implemented in toto, the people of Delhi might go back to the Aam Aadmi Party, sooner rather than later.

**Govardhana Myneedu,**
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Parties with an ideology that differs from that of the BJP's have obviously failed to learn important lessons in political management to match the aspirations of young voters. A lack of dynamism, hard work and discipline in party management are what mark the political opponents of the BJP.

**M.V. Nagavender Rao,**
Hyderabad

**A pat for Trump**

Whatever Donald Trump's second term portends for America, his vow to end the Gaza war came true. Again, the credit for the U.S. and Russia agreeing to ending the war in Ukraine goes to Mr. Trump. He deserves praise for the cessation of two mindless wars.

**Prabhu Raj R.,**
Bengaluru

**Corrections & Clarifications**

The expansion of BTR is Biennial Transparency Report and not Biannual Transparency Report, as mentioned in a report, "India prepares to submit updated greenhouse gas inventory to UN" (News, February 19, 2025).

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

# Is there a right to take offence?

**Justice Gautam Patel**

Former judge of the Bombay High Court

**Dushyant Dave**

Senior Advocate based in Delhi

PARLEY

The popular YouTube show 'India's Got Latent' has sparked controversy after criminal proceedings were initiated against its creators and participants over allegedly obscene remarks in one of its episodes. On February 18, 2025, the Supreme Court granted interim protection from arrest to podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, one of the participants named in the FIRs. This has reignited the debate on whether stringent criminal sanctions are justified for contentious speech. Is there a right to take offence? Justice Gautam Patel and Dushyant Dave discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik.** Edited excerpts:

**Is there a right to take offence at any form of speech?**

**Justice Gautam Patel:** No such right exists. The reasonable restrictions on free speech under Article 19(2) of the Constitution do not recognise offensive speech as a distinct category. Instead, the restrictions are narrowly defined and include security of the state, public order, decency, morality, and other specific grounds. Therefore, the notion of a right to take offence lies beyond the ambit of constitutionally permissible limitations. While the language used in the show is highly objectionable and unpalatable, it does not necessarily amount to a violation of decency or morality under Article 19(2).

**Dushyant Dave:** The right to free speech is always subject to certain exceptions, including decency and morality. However, these standards vary across jurisdictions and evolve over time. While I agree that the language used in the show was highly inappropriate, I have serious reservations about whether it meets the legal threshold to constitute a criminal offence. In reality, such language is widely used in everyday discourse and has become common parlance in society. Thus, the outrage surrounding it seems misplaced.

**Should laws be paternalistic, or restrict speech only when it poses an imminent risk of public disorder?**

**DD:** I believe that speech should remain unrestricted, except when it is seditious and incites violence. The Constituent Assembly debates reveal strong opposition to the restrictions imposed on free speech under Article 19(2)-19(6), with many members arguing that the government should not have the power to curtail expression. However, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar maintained that in the larger interest of the nation, some restrictions were necessary as long as they remained narrowly defined. However, the irony is that politicians routinely engage in hate speech, yet constitutional authorities fail to take any action. Given this, I would rather grant citizens greater latitude to express themselves than condone such reprehensible conduct from our political leaders.

Ranveer Allahbadia. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**GP:** The freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a) can be restricted only by the limitations explicitly prescribed in Article 19(2). While the right to free speech is expansive, the restrictions on it remain narrowly defined. Therefore, the state cannot impose restrictions beyond these constitutional limits. More importantly, speech cannot be curtailed through executive action – such restrictions must be imposed solely through duly enacted legislation.

**Is constitutional morality a vital safeguard against the moral convictions of the majority?**

**DD**: Constitutional morality upholds the spirit of the Constitution by reinforcing values like social justice and equality. However, restrictions on free speech are governed by statute law. Any evaluation of whether speech constitutes an offence must be confined to these narrowly defined legal parameters, rather than the shifting moral sentiments of the public.

That said, society has every right to condemn the remarks made on the show. It can express discontent through criticism or boycotts. However, criminal sanctions are never the solution. Moreover, the increasing trend of filing multiple FIRs for the same offence constitutes harassment. It not only prejudices the accused but also undermines their right to a fair defence.

**GP:** Constitutional morality is a nuanced and evolving concept. It is not an inherent sentiment but one that must be cultivated. There is also ambiguity regarding its application to constitutional processes. For instance, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed it was wiser to entrust the legislature with prescribing forms of administration rather than embedding them in the Constitution. That said, I agree that whether a form of speech qualifies as an offence is a matter strictly governed by substantive law.

> Profanity is not humour; it is an indication of thoughtlessness. Intelligent humour does not require offensive language. As a society, we must understand that divergent views are inevitable. We can engage with them or ignore them, but not silence the messenger.
> JUSTICE GAUTAM PATEL

**Can profane speech necessarily be considered "obscene" speech?**

**GP:** A speech laced with profanities is not necessarily obscene. This understanding has evolved over five decades of judicial interpretation. In 1964, the Supreme Court in *Ranjit D. Udeshi v. State of Maharashtra* applied the Victorian-era Hicklin test to ban *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D.H. Lawrence. It defined obscenity as anything with a "tendency to deprave and corrupt" those susceptible to immoral influences. Fifty years later, in *Aveek Sarkar v. State of West Bengal*, the Court embraced the "community standards" test, a more contemporary approach. However, community standards are amorphous and hard to define. Does it mean that discussions about sex in public discourse must be prohibited? If so, what does that imply for our ancient art and sculptures? These standards continue to evolve. Today, few would deem *Lady Chatterley's Lover* obscene rather than a literary masterpiece.

**DD:** Obscenity is not explicitly defined under criminal law or the Information Technology Act 2000. Instead, its determination is a matter of degree, shaped by society's evolving moral standards. Looking at the erotic art of Khajuraho and Konark. It seems that rather than becoming more progressive, our society has regressed over time. Justice Krishna Iyer captured this dilemma in *Raj Kapoor & Ors. v. State* (1979), where the court quashed criminal proceedings against the makers of the film *Satyam, Sivam, Sundaram*. He observed: "The relation between reality and relativity must haunt the Court's evaluation of obscenity, expressed in society's pervasive humanity, not law's penal perspective."

**A recent study by the research group India Hate Lab found a 74.4% surge in hate speech against minorities by politicians in 2024. Is the relentless targeting of comedians a case of misplaced priorities?**

**DD:** Yes, definitely. Politicians continue to spew hate speech with impunity. During the Lok Sabha elections, several politicians, including the Prime Minister, made blatantly divisive remarks against minorities. Yet, the Election Commission and the State Police remained silent spectators. Opposition parties also failed to challenge these violations in court. Meanwhile, mainstream television journalists amplify hate speech daily. This should alarm every member of society. Comedians are targeted across political lines because they expose uncomfortable truths. Politicians perceive them as a threat. But dissent and criticism are fundamental to democracy. Silencing them paves the way for authoritarianism.

**GP:** Comedians play a crucial role in society by challenging authority and reflecting societal realities. I firmly believe in the Latin maxim *"In joco veritas* – In jest, there is truth." Thus, the targeting of comedians is not just unfortunate but reprehensible. However, profanity is not humour; it is an indication of thoughtlessness. Intelligent humour does not require offensive language. As a society, we must understand that divergent views are inevitable. We can either engage with them or ignore them, but not silence the messenger. I also agree with Dushyant that we are failing to penalise the rising instances of hate speech.

**Efforts to regulate digital content, such as the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, have intensified. What are your concerns?**

**GP:** I do not endorse any such regulatory attempts. Once free speech is restricted, it sets a dangerous precedent. Censorship creates uniformity, compelling everyone to consume the same sanitised information. But the essence of free speech is to prevent such conformity. In a democracy, divergent opinions are essential. Else, we risk sliding into authoritarianism.

**DD:** My concern is the selective enforcement of laws. Why do censorship laws primarily target Opposition leaders and government critics? People are dragged to court for merely criticising the government, even when their speech falls short of sedition. Laws must be applied fairly and impartially – something the judiciary is failing to uphold. A vibrant democracy demands unwavering protection of free speech.

To listen to the full interview
**Scan the code or go to the link**
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

# Covering a stampede

Even as the authorities were slow and confused in communicating facts with journalists, the post-mortems were conducted quickly

**Alisha Dutta**

In India, nobody bats an eye when they see crowded railway stations or men hanging from the open doors of the general compartment of a train. So, when a video landed in my inbox on February 15 showing a jam-packed station and people jostling with one another to board a train, I found nothing unusual or alarming about it.

However, within the next few minutes, news wires announced that there was a "stampede-like situation" at the New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS). This was contradicted by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Northern Railways, Himanshu Upadhyay, who in a public statement claimed that news of a stampede was just a "rumour". At midnight, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena made a public statement condoling the deaths of the victims of the stampede. However, within the next few minutes, Mr. Saxena edited his post, removing any mention of deaths or a stampede. The Railways Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said on social media that the situation was "under control".

As one can imagine, these conflicting statements made it a challenging task for journalists working for national dailies. Our deadline was looming, but authorities continued to underplay the situation hours after it occurred, which meant that we could not communicate the facts of the night. As a result, readers across India woke up the next morning to multiple newspapers carrying headlines that did not confirm the number of casualties.

In sharp contrast to the speed in communicating factually correct information was the speed with which post-mortems were carried out that night. By 2:30 a.m. on February 16, while people continued to search for their loved ones at various hospitals, some post-mortems were completed. Having reported on a number of major disasters, I was taken aback at the pace at which this was happening. At the station too, urgency dictated the mood: all the markers of a stampede – shoes, garment pieces, and blood marks – were removed or scrubbed off.

That night, I visited two hospitals where some bodies were yet to be identified and claimed. When I reached the third hospital around 3 a.m., I saw the police recording the statement of a man. The man had carried his daughter's blood-covered body to the hospital and was being asked to narrate the happenings of the night. As soon as his statement was recorded, he was quickly escorted by the hospital staff to the mortuary where his daughter's body lay. The post-mortem had been completed. I learned later that the body was released within the next hour and the man was given compensation of ₹10 lakh in cash.

While watching the distraught man, I realised that he had not got any time to process the tragedy. He looked confused and tired. In that moment, I learned a painful lesson – to pause and mourn the loss of loved ones is a luxury in India.

The next morning, I visited the hospitals again. By then, the bodies of the victims of the stampede had been released from the mortuaries. The families, accompanied by the police, had taken them. The families had been given compensation, as declared by the Railways Ministry, in cash, and had been sent off to their homes in Delhi, Bihar, and Haryana. They had been sent away before reporters could record their testimonies.

The injured were getting discharged, irrespective of the severity of their wounds. They were receiving compensation in cash from a railway official, and a man in civilian clothes was recording videos while asking the survivors whether they had got the full compensation.

The events revealed how desperately the government was trying to cover up the stampede – first by downplaying it and then by providing a picture of normalcy. The country may move on quickly from this stampede, just as it did from the Maha Kumbh stampede a fortnight ago.

*alisha.d@thehindu.co.in*

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

## Crushed in a crowd

Passengers board an overcrowded train headed to Prayagraj, at the New Delhi Railway Station, on February 15. A stampede occurred at the station, killing 18 people and injuring more than a dozen others. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** FEBRUARY 21, 1975

## Surplus Railway Budget, no fare rise

New Delhi, Feb. 20: There is no increase in the passenger fares in the Railway Budget proposals for 1975-76 presented to Parliament here this evening by the Railway Minister, Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi.

However, the Railway Minister announced proposals for "minor rationalisation" in the freight rates on certain commodities which would yield Rs. 39 crores. This will more than cover the deficit of Rs. 15.97 crores and leave a surplus of Rs. 23.03 crores.

The Railway Minister said that out of this Rs. 18 crores will be utilised for defraying expenditure chargeable to Development Fund and the balance of Rs. 5.03 crores will be credit to the Revenue Reserve Fund.

Mr. Tripathi said that the rationalisation proposals covered the tariff on foodgrains (including pulses) and iron ore and manganese ore for export. During 1974-75, the Railways would have suffered a loss of Rs. 34.5 crores in lifting 14.5 million tonnes of foodgrains and pulses which are carried at rates below the bare operating cost, since these were meant for public distribution. In 1975-76, this loss was expected to go up to Rs 35 crores on the movement of 15.5 million tonnes.

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** FEBRUARY 21, 1925

## Canadian locomotives for India

Attention has been drawn by the Canadian Trade Commissioner in India to the question of the locomotives used there, and he appears to hold out some hope that Canada may have some chances of supplying a proportion of them to the Indian Railways, we are told by a *Pioneer* correspondent. He says that engineers in India are slowly awakening to the fact that the Canadian and American types of locomotives are more suitable in the country than the British, which appear to have almost the monopoly. He claims that the locomotives made here are more "get-at-able", and when taken off the road for repairs are said to spend much less time in the work shops than the English type.

## From Page One

## SC stays Lokpal order on powers over HC judges

The anti-corruption body assumed jurisdiction to inquire or investigate complaints about High Court judges on the ground that, unlike the Supreme Court, the High Courts in India were constituted by British Parliamentary Acts – Indian High Courts Act, 1861 and Government of India Act 1935 – and Letters Patent of the British Monarch. In fact, the High Courts pre-dated the Constitution, the Lokpal reasoned.

Article 214 of the Constitution, which said "there shall be a High Court for each State", had only "intrinsically recognised" the existence of the High Courts. The Constitution did not establish the High Courts, the Lokpal argued in the January 27 order.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court was completely a child of the Constitution, the ombudsman noted. Article 124 of the Constitution had established the Supreme Court, which had not been in existence till then.

A few days before the January 27 order, the Lokpal, in a decision on January 3, had declared that it had no power over Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice of India.

In the January 3 order, the Lokpal had explained that the Supreme Court was not a "body" established by an Act of Parliament or financed or controlled by the Central government. It had observed that Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice of India, even though 'public servants' in terms of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988, were not amenable to the jurisdiction of the Lokpal.

But, the Lokpal, in its January 27 order, found the argument that a High Court judge was outside the ombudsman's jurisdiction, "too naive". The Lokpal said a High Court judge came within the ambit of clause (f) of Section 14(1) of the 2013 Act.

A clause of Section 14 notes the Lokpal has jurisdiction over "any person who is or has been a chairperson or member or officer or employee in any body or Board or corporation or authority or company or society or trust or autonomous body (by whatever name called) established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly financed by the Central government or controlled by it".

The term 'any person' in the clause would include a judge of a High Court established by an Act of Parliament. "The 2013 Act does not provide for an explicit exception for the judges of the court established by an Act of the Parliament," the Lokpal order read. In this case, the judge in question was serving in the High Court of a State reorganised by an Act of the Parliament, it pointed out.

The order had caught the attention of the Supreme Court as the Lokpal had forwarded the complaint to the Chief Justice of India for his consultation before launching a preliminary enquiry.

"All judges have been appointed under the Constitution," Justice Oka summed up the apex court's thoughts about the case succinctly during the hearing.

## Rekha Gupta takes over as 9th Chief Minister

The Cabinet comprises Parvesh Sahib Singh, who will handle the Public Welfare Department and Water; Ashish Sood, who will take charge of the Home, Power, Education and Urban Development portfolios; Manjinder Singh Sirsa, given charge of Food & Supplies, Forest Environment and Industries; Ravinder Indraj, who will look after Social Welfare, SC and ST Welfare, Cooperatives, and Elections; Kapil Mishra, who has been handed the Law and Justice, Labour, Employment and Tourism Departments; and Pankaj Singh who will handle Health and Family Welfare, Transport and Information Technology.

Hours after the new Chief Minister and Ministers were sworn in, BJP leaders offered prayers at the Yamuna Ghat. Cleaning of the Yamuna is expected to be the BJP's top priority. Several BJP leaders, including Mr. Modi, in the run-up to the Delhi elections had promised to clean the Yamuna and build a riverfront on its banks.

Meanwhile, three-time Rohini MLA Vijendra Gupta told journalists: "I am thankful to the party for giving me the responsibility of Speaker of Delhi Assembly." However, the BJP is yet to make any official announcement in this regard.

**Cabinet decisions**

After her first Cabinet meeting, Ms. Gupta said the government would table 14 pending CAG reports in the first session of the new Delhi Assembly, and would also work towards implementing the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat in Delhi as quickly as possible.

## Trade deal 'possible' with China: Trump

Beijing's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that China and the U.S. "should resolve their concerns through dialogue and consultation based on equality and mutual respect".

"Trade and tariff wars have no winners and only serve to damage the interests of people all over the world," Ministry Spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a regular press briefing.

At a separate news conference, China's Commerce Ministry said Beijing "urges the U.S. side not to wield the big stick of tariffs at every turn, using tariffs as a tool to engage in coercion all around".

# Surrender looted arms in 7 days or face action, says Manipur Governor

Ajay Kumar Bhalla emphasises the need for peace and urges all communities to work towards restoring normalcy in the State; he says the government is committed to a peaceful resolution

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Thursday appealed to members of all communities to surrender looted police weapons and illegally held arms at the nearest police station within seven days. He said if the weapons were not surrendered, strict action would follow for possession of arms.

Manipur came under President's Rule on February 13.

In a statement, Mr. Bhalla said, "People of Manipur, both in Valley and Hills, have suffered immense hardship for the last 20 months due to a series of unfortunate incidents affecting peace and communal harmony."

He said that in the greater interest of restoring normalcy, all communities in the State must come forward to ensure the cessation of hostilities and maintenance of peace and order in the society.

**Action ahead:** Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla seen during his meeting with top officials on February 17. PTI

**'Powerful gesture'**

"It is in this regard that I sincerely request the people of all communities, particularly the youths in the Valley and Hills, to voluntarily come forward and surrender looted and illegally held weapons and ammunition to the nearest police station/outpost/security forces camp within next seven days, with effect from today [Thursday]. Your single act of returning these weapons can be a powerful gesture towards ensuring peace. I want to assure you that no punitive action would be initiated if such weapons are returned within the stipulated time. Thereafter, strict action will be taken for possession of such weapons," Mr. Bhalla said.

He said the government was committed to ensuring a peaceful resolution of the situation and safeguarding the future of the youth. "Let us rebuild our State together with hope and trust for a brighter future. Come forward and choose peace," the Governor appealed.

More than 6,000 police weapons were looted after ethnic violence erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. Though similar appeals to surrender weapons were made earlier also by the State government, only 2,000 weapons could be recovered from the public.

# Amit Shah appeals to Northeast insurgents to join mainstream

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday appealed to the last of the remaining insurgent groups active in Northeast India to lay down arms and join the mainstream.

He also said by 2027, all the northeastern States will be connected by air and rail.

Mr. Shah said that since 2014, more than 10,500 militants have laid down arms in the Northeast and 12 peace accords have been signed in the region between 2019 and 2024. He said that many disputes had been going on in the region for decades, but the Narendra Modi government took two steps forward and made the youth believe that a lot of opportunities were available for them.

The Minister attended the "Unity Utsav – One Voice, One Nation" event organised by Assam Rifles. Many dignitaries including the Director-General of Assam Rifles. Lieutenant-General Vikas Lakhera. were present.

The Minister said 212 teams and 1,500 students took part in the sports competitions in the event and more than 150 students also participated in the cultural programmes. He said that today most of the prizes had been bagged by Manipur, which shows the importance of sports in the State. He said that keeping in mind the popularity of sports in the Northeast, Prime Minister Modi decided to establish the country's first sports university in Manipur.

He expressed confidence that in 2036, India will host the Olympic Games, and the country will be in the top 10 with the Northeastern States playing a key role in this achievement.

# Infiltration has 'gone down substantially' after change of Bangladesh regime, says BSF chief

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

Infiltration along the Bangladesh border has "gone down substantially" after the political developments in the neighbouring country in August 2024, Border Security Force (BSF) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary said on Thursday. He further said the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) stood shoulder to shoulder with the BSF to maintain peace and tranquillity throughout the "crisis" period.

After the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 3, 2024, the BSF and BGB held their Director General-level talks for the first time from February 16 to 20. The meeting concluded with the signing of a joint record of discussions.

The BGB Director-General, Major General Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, said that reports of attacks on Hindus and other minorities in the neighbouring country were an exaggeration and that the law and order incidents were part of a political problem.

**Crucial step:** The border-guarding forces agreed to share real-time information and investigation reports of traffickers. FILE PHOTO

Responding to a question by *The Hindu* on the issue, he said, "To be honest, such attacks on minorities per se did not happen. The substantiation of that was the recently held Durga Puja. For example, the law enforcement agencies of Bangladesh were very precisely and strictly tasked by the government so that the Hindu community could perform the festival. To elaborate on this, BGB jurisdiction is within 8 km of the International Boundary, we have several *puja mandaps* where BGB personnel provide security. Overall, the law-and-order situation was not on minority, it may be some kind of political problem."

The border-guarding forces of India and Bangladesh agreed to share real-time information and investigation reports of human traffickers to ensure effective border management without deaths on either side, a statement by the BSF said. The BSF and BGB will also begin joint inspections of areas to resolve the issues of fencing.

The BSF had raised the issue of attacks on its personnel at the meeting. Mr. Chawdhary said, "We raised the issue of attack on BSF personnel. We share the responsibility to secure the sanctity of the border. At the same time, the Government of India follows non-lethal (weapon) strategy at the border with Bangladesh. At times, taking advantage of night cover, some miscreants try to enter our territory by breaching the fence. We do not use unnecessary lethal force against anybody but when the circumstances come, in self-defence we need to use lethal force as a last resort and we exercise that power with full restraint. During this meeting, we urged the BGB that the border remains absolutely secure and no infiltration happens on the border so that such incidents do not happen."

The BGB chief said there was no discussion on changing the 1975 border agreement with India. He stated that any kind of permanent construction within 150 yards of the international border was not allowed. "There are some development works taking place on both sides and concurrence of both sides are taken and due to some communication gaps, if one of the forces is not informed, then objection is raised from the other side. If it happens on the Indian side, BGB raises objections and vice versa and then we stop that work and resolve the issue mutually," he said.

## 'Sugar exports helped in clearing arrears'

**A. M. Jigeesh**
NEW DELHI

Barely a month after the Centre's decision to allow the export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar, the Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has claimed that almost ₹21,096 crore of arrears due to sugarcane farmers have been paid.

Terming the opening up of sugar exports as a "wonderful decision", ISMA director-general Deepak Ballani said the foreign exchange that sugar millers had received is being used to clear the arrears.

The Centre allowed sugar exports to resume on January 21. Many farmers are watching the policy change with suspicion. The western Uttar Pradesh-based leader of the All India Kisan Sabha D.P. Singh said the benefits have not reached the farmers.

## MoD signs two contracts worth ₹1,917 crore

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Thursday signed two contracts worth ₹1,917.47 crore for the procurement of 149 software-defined radios (SDR) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and 1,868 rough terrain forklift trucks (RTFLT) for the three Services.

The contract for SDRs is at a total cost of ₹1,220.12 crore. "Induction of SDRs marks the transition to multi-band, multi-mode and multi-role radios of the future," the Ministry said. The contract for RTFLTs is at a total cost of ₹697.35 crore. It is a critical equipment which will assist in various combat and logistics support tasks by avoiding manual handling of an enormous number of stores thereby enhancing the operational effectiveness of the three Services.

# NGOs aligned with Cong. attempted to influence polls in country, says BJP

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday alleged that NGOs aligned with the Congress and against Prime Minister Narendra Modi have attempted to influence elections in India, citing the remarks of U.S. President Donald Trump about the previous Biden administration's decision to allocate $21 million to fund "voter turnout" in India.

Former Union Minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad sought to draw a link between Mr. Trump's comments and certain remarks made by Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, during a recent foreign visit.

"Rahul Gandhi has made a joke of Indian democracy abroad and sought help from democracies abroad. It means he sought support to help him win as the Congress keeps losing elections," Mr. Prasad said.

Ravi Shankar Prasad

He said that the U.S. President had confirmed that $21 million was being given to influence "voter turnout" in India. "Rahul Gandhi used to go abroad and say that democratic countries do not worry about the 'threats' to Indian democracy..." he alleged. "If people do not vote for them, they conspire to use foreign money to influence the elections in India and defame Indian democracy. We condemn it outright, this blatant foreign money interference in India's democratic process," he said.

The BJP's IT Cell incharge Amit Malviya posted on X, alleging there was a "systematic attempt to influence the 2024 general election to ensure an alternate outcome".

"Under the UPA government (2004-2013), the Indian government received $204.28 million, while NGOs received $2,114.96 million. Under the NDA (2014-2024), government funding dropped to $1.51 million (as of 2015), while NGO funding increased to $2,579.73 million," he said. *(with inputs from agencies)*

## 'Ambedkar Chair' will be set up at University of Mumbai: Minister

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Union Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar on Thursday said the government would set up an "Ambedkar Chair" at the University of Mumbai, which would promote research on B.R. Ambedkar's contributions and his vision for the nation. He was speaking at an event celebrating the government's *Samvidhan Amrit Mahotsav*.

He said, "Dr. Ambedkar's journey from a student in this very institution to becoming the architect of our Constitution is a testament to his determination and vision for India. His work envisioned a social and economic democracy that is still the guiding force behind the government's policies."

**APPEAL**

**Ms. Ahana Firdosh Firoj Khan,** CMC Hospital No. AG40359, 16 years old daughter of Firoj Khan admitted Christian Medical College has been diagnosed to have Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life-threatening blood disorder. The best option for her would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs.15,00,000/-**.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Ahana Firdosh Firoj Khan. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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# Maharashtra Minister convicted in cheating case, granted bail

**Snehal Mutha**
MUMBAI

The Nashik District Court on Thursday sentenced Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate and his brother Vjay Kokate to two years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on them in a 1995 cheating case. The court later granted bail to Mr. Manikrao, who is set to approach the Bombay High Court against the order.

The district court ordered the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority and the Deputy Collector (Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation–ULC) of Nashik to take action to cancel the allotment of flats to the Kokate brothers and restore possession after the appeal period is over.

Among the four accused, Popat Sonawane and Prashant Govardhane were acquitted.

> No doubt, Manikrao Kokate being a Minister... may ruin his reputation if he is punished. The law cannot condone such illegal acts merely because the person has a reputable position in society
> **COURT ORDER**

**'Will appeal'**

Mr. Mainkrao, who represents the Sinnar constituency, told presspersons in Nashik, "I have received bail in the case. We will go to the High Court and file an appeal against the order." He alleged political enmity with the person who filed the petition.

The chargesheet says the Kokate brothers showed lower income than the prescribed limit of below 30,000 a year and committed fraud with the government. Popat Sonawane and Prashant Goverdhane owned flats under the scheme were transferred to the Kokate brothers.

The verdict comes after a case was filed against them for allegedly tampering with documents and cheating in 1995. Former Minister Tukaram Dighole had filed a petition against the brothers for fraudulently acquiring flats in the Nirman View Apartment.

The complaint was related to showing lower income to purchase the house from the government's 10% quota in 1995. Mr. Dighole, a three-time MLA and Minister from the Congress, died in 2019.

The order mentioned, "No doubt, Manikrao Kokate being a Minister of the State in the agriculture department may ruin his reputation if he is punished. But simultaneously, the law cannot condone such illegal acts merely because the person has a reputable position in society."

The decision has put Mr. Manikrao in a spot, where his ministerial and legislative positions are at risk because any public representative sentenced to two years or more in prison cannot remain in office.

# Delhi Cabinet decides to implement Ayushman Bharat, table CAG reports

Asked about BJP's poll promise of giving aid for women, new CM said it was discussed at meeting, but more talks were required for taking a call on which categories of women would get benefit

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Taking charge:** Rekha Gupta assuming charge as Delhi Chief Minister in the presence of senior BJP leaders at the Delhi Secretariat on Thursday. ANI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday said that the Cabinet had decided in its first meeting to implement the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, and also to table the 14 pending Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) reports in the Delhi Assembly.

"Two main decisions have been taken. First, Ayushman Yojana, which was stalled by the earlier government and because of the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) government, people of Delhi did not get it. Today's first Cabinet meeting has taken a decision to implement Ayushman Bharat Yojana in Delhi with ₹5 lakh top-up from the Delhi government. Also, ₹5 lakh will be given by the Central government. It'll be implemented as early as possible," Ms. Gupta said, briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting.

"Second, 14 CAG reports which were pending and not tabled by the earlier government will be tabled in the first Assembly session," she said.

Asked about the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign promise of providing ₹2,500 a month to women, the Chief Minister said that it was discussed at the Cabinet meeting, but more discussions were required for taking a call on which categories of women would get the benefit.

**'Will fulfil all promises'**

Earlier in the day, after assuming office, Ms. Gupta, said, "I have taken charge of the Chief Minister's Office after the oath taking. The mission of *Viksit* Delhi, to complete it, we will keep working towards it. We won't wait even a single day. And we will complete every commitment we had made."

On February 10, even before the Chief Minster took oath, the Chief Secretary had asked all departments concerned to prepare draft Cabinet notes based on the BJP's manifesto, wherever it was required. He had also asked all departments to prepare a "100 days' action plan" based on the BJP's manifesto, officials said.

The AAP government not tabling the 14 CAG reports had become controversial with the then BJP Opposition MLAs filing a petition with the Delhi High Court in 2024. They sought direction from the High Court to the Speaker to call a sitting of the Assembly for the tabling of the reports.

During a hearing held on January 13, the court had said the CAG reports should have been promptly placed before the Assembly for discussion and the State government "dragging its feet" on the issue raised "doubts on its *bona fides*".

Senior AAP leader and former Chief Minister Atishi alleged that the BJP has betrayed women of Delhi by not taking a decision on the promise of giving them aid. "Mr. [Narendra] Modi and Amit Shah along with entire BJP had promised that in the very first Cabinet meeting they will approve the scheme of ₹2,500 per month to all women in Delhi. It is very sad that woman Chief Minister broke promise made to women of Delhi," she said. Responding to it, Ms. Gupta said the government would do the work and questioned what the AAP did during its tenure.

# Govt. prioritising PR, false ads over national security, says Kharge

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday slammed the Centre over news reports that China was settling 90 new villages along the Arunachal Pradesh border.

In an X post, Mr. Kharge accused the government of prioritising "PR stunts and false advertisements" over national security.

"Narendra Modi*ji*, you are adopting the policy of giving a 'red salute' to China instead of showing 'red eyes'. India's national security, territorial sovereignty and integrity are paramount, the Modi government is putting it at risk," he said.

"Our allegation is made with great responsibility and is based on facts. China has started settling 90 new villages on the Arunachal border. Earlier, China had settled 628 such villages on our border, according to newspapers. The Modi government promotes the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' on the border a lot, you have exaggerated it in Parliament. But the truth is that 90% of the funds of the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' have not been spent in the last two years," he said, tagging the news reports of Chinese activity along the border.

He also raised the issue of China announcing plans to build the 'world's largest dam' on the Brahmaputra, which could prove disastrous for national security, environment, and the northeastern States.

# Congress seeks White Paper on USAID funds

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday demanded that the Union government bring out a White Paper on USAID funding of both government and non-governmental institutions in India.

The demand comes amid an ongoing row that the U.S. government aid agency had been funding campaigns to increase voter turnout in India. On Thursday, U.S. President Donald Trump had questioned USAID's alleged expenditure of $21 million for "voter turnout" in India.

"USAID is very much in the news these days. Claims being made by the U.S. President are typically nonsensical to say the least," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on X.

"Even so, the Government of India should bring out a White Paper at the earliest detailing USAID's support to both governmental and non-governmental institutions in India over the decades," he said.

# Cong. backs lawyers protesting against proposed changes to Advocates Act

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday extended its support to the legal fraternity that is opposing the proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961. In a statement, the All India Congress Committee department on Law, Human Rights and RTI expressed solidarity with the lawyers, and said the proposed Bill was not only "poorly drafted" but also failed to address the pertinent issues faced by the legal fraternity. The Centre plans to amend the Act by making sweeping changes in the definitions of a legal practitioner and law graduate.


सी.एस.आई.आर.–संरचनात्मक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान केंद्र
**CSIR-STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE**
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अधिसूचना NOTIFICATION No. SE-1/2025
**Engagement of ITI / Diploma / Graduate apprentices & JRF / Project Associate-I&II**

| Positions | Vacancies | Stipend / Emoluments | Date & Time of Walk-in-interview |
|---|---|---|---|
| TRADE (ITI) APPRENTICESHIP | 16 | ₹ 10,500/- pm | 03-03-2025 (9.00am - 10.30am) |
| TECHNICIAN (DIPLOMA) APPRENTICESHIP | 13 | ₹ 12,000/- pm | |
| GRADUATE (DEGREE) APPRENTICESHIP | 02 | ₹ 13,000/- pm | |
| JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW | 01 | ₹ 37,000/- + HRA | 04-03-2025 (9.00am - 10.30am) |
| PROJECT ASSOCIATE I | 04 | ₹ 25,000/- + HRA | |
| PROJECT ASSOCIATE II | 03 | ₹ 28,000/- + HRA | |

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TGTRANSCO invites bids on e-procurement platform for the following works: **Specification No.** Spec.No.**TGT- CONST-e-12/2024-25 of CE(Construction). Name of the work:** Supply, Erection, Testing and commissioning of 1No. 220KV GIS Bay at 400KV Raidurg SS, which shall be integrated with existing bays at 400KV SS Raidurg, along with Double Bus extension from existing 220KV Bays to VITP Bay, in Ranga Reddy District on Turnkey Basis. **Date and Time of availability of bid document:** 21.02.2025 at 17.00 Hrs. Further details can be seen @ http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Phone: 040-23396000, Extn: 3242/3356/3256/3253
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**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CUM PROJECT MANAGER**
**WCDC WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT AND SOIL CONSERVATION ZP PHALODI**
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S. No. F()/WDSC/MJSA 2.0(Ph-1)/Bids/2024-25/215-222 Date 07.02.2025
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**NIB No.-Phalodi/01/2024-25**
Bids for Execution of Watershed Development Works under MJSA 2.0 Scheme of estimated cost as mentioned below are invited from interested bidders up to 03.03.2025, 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, and *www.watershed.rajasthan.gov.in* departmental website.

| Bid No. | Block | Estimated Cost, Rs. in lakhs | UBN No. |
|---|---|---|---|
| MJSA /BAP/01/01 | Bap | 207.13 | WSC2425WSRC01194 |

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**(Contact No. 96461-18774)**
**Tender Enquiry No.MQP-246/2024-25/PO(M) Dated: 20.02.2025**
CE/Metering, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Supply Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Reading, Analysis, integration with billing system and 1 year O&M of 1000 no. Power Quality Meters complying to IEC 61000-4-30 class A. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 20.02.2025 (11:00AM onwards).
**Note:** Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
**C 121/25** **76155/12/3935/2023/41866**

**SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED**
**CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027**
**GEM Procurement**
GEM Bids are invited for the following project of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited

| SL. NO | ITEM CATEGORY | QUANTITY (NOS) | BID NUMBER | BID END DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Supply and installation i5 Desktop 125nos, UPS 10 KVA 3 Nos, Networking for Model School Thiruvananthapuram | 125 | GEM/2025/B/5949159 | 01-03-2025 |

(Sd/-) **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
**SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LTD.**

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**
**LHO, Amaravati, Gunfoundry, Abids, Hyderabad-500001.**
**Ph: 040-2338 7503/297**
**TENDER FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION & SELECTION OF PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT CUM PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT**
State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Amaravati inviting tenders for pre -qualification & selection of Principal Architect cum Project Management Consultant for proposed construction of SBI Officers' Residential Quarters at Masulipatnam, Andhra Pradesh
The interested parties, please log on to: **https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news.** The completed application to be submitted to Asst. General Manager (P&E) on or before **07.03.2025** at **03:00 PM**.
**Place : Hyderabad**
**Date : 21.02.2025** **ASST. GENERAL MANAGER (P&E)**

**BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)**
BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for the Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT442 for **"Strengthening of HT and LT Distribution Network by providing link lines using HT UG Cable wherever necessary and replacing age old conductor by Rabbit Conductor and LT AB Cable at Kanakpura Division",** BESCOM for a period of one year on Total Turnkey basis.
**Bid Documents available:** 24.02.2025. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 25.03.2025, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 26.03.2025, 17:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.
**Sd/-**
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
**Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM**

**TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**
**Mondipatti, Manapparai Tk, Trichy Dist. - 621 306**
**Ph: 04332-261600. Email: purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in**
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

| Tender No. | Description of work | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| 242523 003987 | Carboxy Methyl Cellulose (CMC) Powder Form for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II. | 07.03.2025 |
| 242523 003988 | Cross Linker for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II. | 07.03.2025 |
| 242523 003989 | Lubricant for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II. | 07.03.2025 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
**DIPR/679/Tender/2025** *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
**SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, AMARAVATI**
Short Tender is invited through e-procurement platform for supply of Practical Records for students of classes XI and XII under "Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra" (SRKVM-1) vide Tender Notice NIT No.37/2024-25, dt. 20.02.2025 in Samagra Shiksha, Amaravati at Patamata, Vijayawada for 01 work in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
Short Tender Downloading starts from : **22.02.2025** after **10.30 AM**
Last date for receipt of Tenders : **04.03.2025** Before **05.00 PM**
Note: Further details can be viewed at https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or contact **0866 2428599.** **Sd/- B. Srinivasa Rao, I.A.S.,**
**DIPR 3543PP/CL, Dated: 20.02.2025** **State Project Director, APSS, Amaravati**

**TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**
**Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.**
**Email : purchase.trans@tnpl.co.in**
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

| Tender No. | Nature of work | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| 242513 006537 | Transportation of Undepithed Loose Bagasse from M/s.E.I.D Parry (I) Ltd., Bagalkot, Karnataka to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram through open market trucks for Sugar Season 2024-25. | 28.02.2025 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
**DIPR/677/Tender/2025** *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

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भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
**संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE**
सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविल: अनुरक्षण: ई–जन निविदा / **No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-20/24-25** तिथि/ **Date. 19.02.2025**
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"एसडीएससी शार के एसएमपी एवं ईटीएफ क्षेत्र में सिविल कार्यों हेतु अवधि संविदा"** (टी/सी–24-068, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 100.00 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार के जीरो पॉइंट एवं एफएलपी क्षेत्र में सिविल कार्यों हेतु अवधि संविदा"** (टी/सी–24-069, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 100.00 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार की केआरपीध्पुलीकट नगर कालोनी में सिविल कार्यों हेतु अवधि संविदा"** (टी/सी–24-070, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 80.00 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार की स्वर्णमुखी नगर एवं पिनाकिनी कालोनी में सिविल कार्यों हेतु अवधि संविदा"** (टी/सी–24-071, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 80.00 लाख), हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **07.03.2025** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering; **"Term Contract for Civil works @ SMP&ETF area, SDSC SHAR."** (T/C-24-068, Est .cost ₹ 100.00 Lakhs); **"Term Contract for Civil works @ Zero Point & FLP area, SDSC SHAR."** (T/C-24-069, Est .cost ₹ 100.00 Lakhs); **"Term Contract for Civil works @ KRP/PCN colony, SDSC SHAR."** (T/C-24-070, Est .cost ₹ 80.00 Lakhs); **"Term Contract for Civil works @ SMN & PNN colony, SDSC SHAR."** (T/C-24-071, Est .cost ₹ 80.00 Lakhs): Tender documents can be downloaded up to **07.03.2025**, **14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

राजस्थान सरकार
**कार्यालय अधीक्षक मथुरादास माथुर चिकित्सालय जोधपुर**
**E-TENDER NOTICE No. 05(2024-25)**
Online Bids are invited from eligible bidders i.e. Manufacturer/Authorized Distributors/Dealers to provide various Items & Services at Mathura Das Mathur Hospital Jodhpur attached to Dr. S. N. Medical College Jodhpur as per tender conditions. Tenders are to be submitted duly digitally signed in electronic format only on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. The tender documents may be downloaded from above mentioned website. The tender document may also be seen on http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

| Item No. | Particulars | UBN NUMBER | Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacks) | Bid Document Download & Submission start on Date Mention below 12:00 PM | Date of Pre-Bid Meeting at MDMH Date & time mention below Between 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Date and Time for submission of DD/BC (Bid fee, Processing fee) up to 04:00 PM | Bid Document Download & Submission end at 04:00 PM on date mention below | Technical Bid Opening at 11:00 PM Mention below |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Hiring of high skilled Manpower | SMC2425 SLRC00183 | 656.00 | 08/02/2025 | 15/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 01/03/2025 |
| 2. | Hiring of skilled Manpower | SMC2425 SLRC00184 | 326.00 | 08/02/2025 | 15/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 01/03/2025 |
| 3. | Hiring of Unskilled Manpower | SMC2425 SLRC00185 | 605.00 | 08/02/2025 | 15/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 01/03/2025 |
| 4. | Hiring of Machine with Man | SMC2425 SLRC00186 | 365.00 | 08/02/2025 | 15/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 01/03/2025 |
| 5. | Hiring of Security Services | SMC2425 SLRC00187 | 410.00 | 08/02/2025 | 15/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 28/02/2025 | 01/03/2025 |

**DIPC/C/1958/2025** **Superintendent, Mathura Das Mathur Hospital Jodhpur**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**
The **Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA),** a society under MPEDA, Government of India, invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from eligible and bonafide Individual/Agency/Firm/Company/Registered Societies under State/Central Government, SHGs and Government Institutions for taking up the lease, development and operation of the following facilities on a **"Lease-Develop-Operate"** basis:
**Marine Finfish Hatchery** located at South Kollemcode Road, Pozhiyoor, Trivandrum, Kerala – 695513.
Interested parties may refer to the RGCA website **https://v2.rgca.co.in** for detailed information and to download relevant documents.
**Last Date for Submission of EOI: 12.03.2025 - 05.00 p.m.**
**DIRECTOR**
**MPEDA-RGCA**

## INBRIEF

### NHRC issues notice to Bengal govt. over death of 2 workers

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday took *suo motu* cognisance of reports regarding the death of two persons after inhaling toxic gas while cleaning a septic tank in Nandigram block in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. According to reports, the person who first entered the septic tank to clean it cried for help after inhaling poisonous gas. Three of his family members rushed to rescue him but they also inhaled the toxic gas and lost consciousness. All four were rushed to the hospital but only two of them survived. The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, Purba Medinipur calling for a detailed report within two weeks.

### Two villagers killed by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada

Two villagers from a left-wing-extremism-affected region in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada were murdered by Naxalites on Wednesday evening, said the police. A senior police officer said that Baman Kashyap (29) and Anis Ram Poyam (38), both residents of Todma village in the Barsoor Police Station limits, were found dead in a deep jungle. Prima facie they were strangled to death, said the police. A pamphlet of the Aaamdai Area Committee of the East Bastar division of the Maoists was purportedly found at the spot. A copy of the said pamphlet that surfaced online has named Kashyap, who worked as a guest school teacher, as a police informer.

# I&B Ministry warns OTTs against 'obscene content'

Ministry cites complaints from general public, MPs and statutory bodies; directs streaming services to enforce age-based ratings for mature content in accordance with 2021 IT Rules

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Warning over-the-top (OTT) streaming services against transmitting "any content that is prohibited by law", the Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry on Thursday said they should ensure "age-based classification of content" under the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The OTT platforms should enforce age-gating requirements for mature content, the Ministry said in an advisory citing complaints from MPs, statutory organisations and the public.

It is unclear specifically what "obscene, pornographic and vulgar content" the circular is referring to. In December 2024, the Ministry flagged some shows "promoting, glamorising or glorifying the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through such portrayal by the main protagonist and other actors".

The IT Rules have extensive regulations prescribing age ratings for content on Indian streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Those regulations require streaming services to have a formal grievance redress system. They should be part of a three-tier system, under which users who are offended by certain content can first approach the platform, then a self-regulatory body, and further an inter-departmental committee of the Union government.

**SC seeks action**

On Tuesday, a Supreme Court Bench, led by Justice Surya Kant, orally observed that the government needed to take some action on obscene content on social media.

The present advisory has only been sent to online curated content platforms, the legal term for streaming platforms such as Netflix, as opposed to user-generated content platforms such as YouTube. The court was hearing a case on clubbing the FIRs against Ranveer Allahbadia, the podcaster who has been at the centre of a storm over a joke he cracked on the YouTube show *India's Got Latent*.

**Not completely banned**

The IT Rules do not completely ban swearing, sex or nudity; they instead require that shows and films that feature these – along with substance abuse and violence – be rated for older audiences.

Apart from the IT Rules, the advisory points to other laws to warn streaming providers against content that features obscenity. "Attention is also invited to the provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986; Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023; the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act; and the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, wherein publication of obscene/pornographic content is a punishable offence," the advisory reads.

**Screening content**

The I&B Ministry's latest advisory has issued the following directives to OTT platforms on 'obscene' content

- Ensure age-based classification
- Enforce age-gating for mature content
- Avoid prohibited content (obscene, vulgar, pornographic)
- Follow IT Rules, 2021 for content moderation
- Comply with laws such as POCSO Act, IT Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

**Legal framework for OTT regulation**

- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act
- IT Act – prohibiting obscene digital content
- IT Rules for streaming platforms
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita expands content regulation

# Aspirants from India, abroad register for video game contest

**Devesh K. Pandey**
NEW DELHI

More than 150 developers from five continents and over 650 Indian aspirants are participating in the handheld video game design challenge organised by the Indian Digital Gaming Society under the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), 2025 initiative recently announced by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

The challenge has so far recorded registration from many countries, including the United States, Canada, and Brazil. Participants have registered from Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Jordan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Pakistan.

In India, students from 20 States and four Union Territories are participating. "The challenge's spread can be seen from the fact that districts which once lacked economic indicators have also shown participation in this complex challenge, thus indicating the success of the Digital India initiative," an official said.

Among the participants, there are not only professionals but also freelance developers and college and school students as well.

A boy plays an online game on his mobile phone. Video games are hugely popular. AP

The participants are required to develop a complete gaming device, integrating game mechanics with physical hardware, making it an independent and adaptable solution for learning through play.

"The challenge is designed to bridge multiple domains, requiring expertise in programming, electronics, and mathematics, to create an efficient and cost-effective hardware solution. Unlike traditional software-based game development, working with microcontrollers allows developers to focus on gameplay logic and hardware integration, without the complexities of Android or Windows operating systems," the official said.

# Pilots could get weekly rest of 48 hours from July 1: DGCA affidavit

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The weekly rest for pilots could be raised from 36 hours to 48 hours with effect from July 1, and revised night flying hours "rolled out' from November 1, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in a detailed scheme for implementing relaxed duty norms for cockpit crew submitted before the Delhi High Court on Thursday.

The liberalised norms governing duty and rest periods for pilots to combat concerns over rising fatigue levels were announced in January 2024, and were to be implemented from June 1, 2024. But they were put on hold after stiff opposition from airlines, forcing pilots' unions to approach the court. After several rounds of court-ordered mediation held by the DGCA between Air India and the pilot bodies, the regulator agreed to a phased implementation.

Pilots have been demanding the scrapping of two consecutive nights of flying.

"Out of 22 clauses, 15 clauses would be implemented from 01.07.2025 and the remaining 7 clauses would be rolled out from 01.11.2025," said the affidavit before the Delhi High Court signed by the DGCA's Assistant Director (Operations), Himanshu Srivastava. The next hearing is on Monday.

Key among the provisions recommended for implementation from July 1 is the weekly rest period of "continuous 48 hours". Night duty will be during the hours between midnight and 6 a.m. instead of the present midnight to 5 a.m. As airlines are allowed to assign pilots only to two consecutive nights of flying, this provision will bring down the time of night flying. Further, the DGCA has capped the number of night landings a pilot can do to two.

Pilots have been demanding the scrapping of two consecutive nights of flying, introduced in April 2019, as night duties disrupt the natural sleep-wake cycle, cause fatigue and impact alertness levels. They say that in the recent past, due to increased international flying, the quantum of night flying has increased exponentially.

The DGCA has used the term "roll-out" and not implementation for the set of rules delayed until November 1, sources in pilots' unions said, indicating that the regulator could be planning a staggered enforcement. Airlines have strongly opposed the DGCA's proposal for restricting night flying. IndiGo had said in a submission to the DGCA in December that expanding the definition of night flying would have "a severe operational impact" and it should therefore remain unchanged.

Air India said it would implement the new definition after the regulator brought a modern, data-based fatigue risk management system.

# Key provision of DPDP Act infantilises PwDs: activists

**Abhinay Lakshman**
NEW DELHI

**Experts say that the need for consent of guardians negates the decision-making capacity of PwDs**

Disability rights activists in Delhi are building a coalition to get a key provision of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 dropped or amended. Section 9(1) of the Act has clubbed children with persons with disabilities (PwDs) to mandate that even in cases of disabled adults who have legal guardians, consent for use of any personal data must be obtained from the guardian concerned.

Disability rights experts and policy think tanks have argued that this infantilises PwDs, stems from a misunderstood notion of their guardianship and negates the decision-making capacity of PwDs recognised by the Rights of the PwD (RPwD) Act, 2016 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD).

Multiple sources told *The Hindu* that the office of the Chief Commissioner of PwDs under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities will take up any further issues on the DPDP Draft Rules, 2025 that might exist with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

In the draft rules, the Ministry had said that the consent clause for PwDs would be limited to those who have "long term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment", are "unable to take legally binding decisions", and who suffer from "autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, or a combination of any two or more of such conditions".

But despite this, several questions remain on the operability of the consent clause for PwDs. In a report put out by policy think tank PACTA and NGO Saksham Disability earlier this month, activists have questioned how this would work in cases of limited guardianship under the RPwD Act. Nipun Malhotra of the Nipman Foundation has said, "There might be someone with visual impairment using a guardian for very specific purpose like financial decisions above a certain amount. Why would this person want their guardian to provide consent while signing up for a fitness app or an e-commerce website? Would that not be a violation of privacy?"

# Govt. panel calls KIIT's founder over student unrest

**The Hindu Bureau**
BHUBANESWAR

Achyuta Samanta, the founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), has been summoned to appear before a high-level committee on Friday following allegations of ill-treatment of Nepalese students on campus.

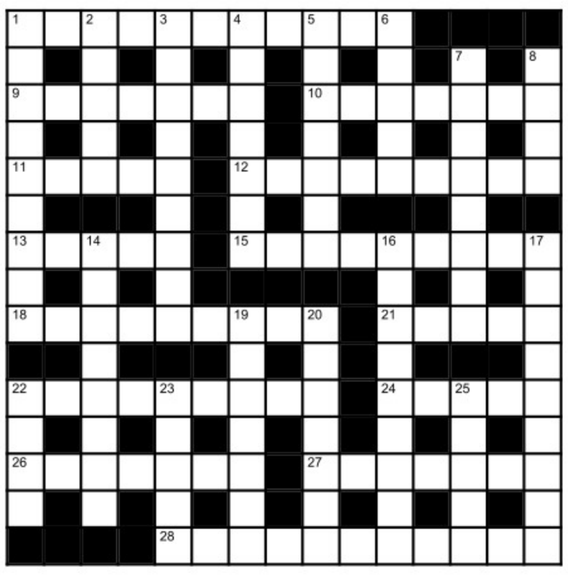
The government has constituted the high-level panel under the chairmanship of Home Secretary Satyabrata Sahu to ascertain the circumstances leading to the alleged suicide, high-handed action by university authorities, reasons for issuing notice only to specific group of students and closing the institute *sine die* for them. Mr. Sahu had visited the campus and spoken to KIIT staff members and students.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14414

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

1 Can't gain if Stokes is out? Tempting (11)
9 Admit that debate ended early at school society (7)
10 Say, help comes in different form for one that's pretty (7)
11 Question the model (5)
12 Dissect a particle with chisels in the middle (9)
13 Bean obtained from Mexico coast (5)
15 Exit terms discord with hardliner (9)
18 Theatre assistant is a good person, at times takes responsibility (9)
21 Lamb's sweep yields a wicket, taken by Hasaranga at first (5)
22 Heartless Poles (2 of them) taking centre of house (9)
24 A sect? Could be confused with another (5)
26 Fact is assets drown one (7)
27 Our names almost got mixed up in appeal (7)
28 Safety feature in new jet's core corrodes mostly (7,4)

**Down**

1 Deal with companies' cosmetic treatments (4,5)
2 Broadcasts result in ship (5)
3 Drunk in Britain by mistake, took drugs and slept essentially (9)
4 As usage is compromised, it becomes moderate (7)
5 Darwin's tantrum controlled in a second (7)
6 Coming up on Aug; a fertilizer (5)
7 Killing a king is dicier, somehow should overcome elite guards at first (8)
8 As per sources, Bombay youth tear excerpt into eight bits (4)
14 Convener Charlie's lock taken by attendant (8)
16 Relaxed having tea and some raisin cake on a piece of furniture (4,5)
17 Classified information on violent protest besieging Election Commission (3-6)
19 Pain-reliever gets an approval ultimately by new lead examiner (7)
20 Investigate princess's school (7)
22 Hide in bay (4)
23 Animated boxer rivets essentially (5)
25 Grounds for grievance (5)

## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | 4 | | 7 | | | 8 |
| 4 | | | 6 | | | 9 | | 3 |
| | | 3 | | | 1 | | | |
| | 7 | 5 | | | 4 | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | 8 | |
| | | | 8 | | | 5 | 1 | |
| | | | 5 | | | 2 | | |
| 1 | | 2 | | | 3 | | | 5 |
| 3 | | | 2 | | 6 | | | 7 |

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | A | M | E | N | S | T | A |
| H | P | A | F | I | I | M | B | L |
| H | U | L | A | S | T | R | O | N |
| T | C | T | I | S | D | T | G | R |
| S | E | R | E | N | E | D | E | E |
| Y | R | G | L | F | V | R | S | K |
| M | E | S | S | E | N | G | E | R |
| T | F | O | G | O | R | E | E | |
| S | E | A | T | C | R | A | S | H |
| T | T | C | E | T | E | S | T | |
| M | A | C | E | R | A | T | E | A |
| S | T | R | A | Y | B | M | V | Z |
| R | A | S | V | I | C | E | G | E |
| R | E | N | T | I | R | I | S | L |
| N | A | R | L | N | D | E | N | T |
| I | T | Y | C | E | N | T | R | E |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 |

## FAITH

### Ganga to purify the soul

All rivers are considered holy, with the Ganga revered as the holiest. Taking a holy dip in the Ganga, with the mind completely focused on the supreme power, is the gateway to heaven, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

The Ganga is considered to have the supreme property to not merely cleanse one's body, but also the mind.

One may wonder if a city or its holy waters can truly possess the power to impact such changes in an ordinary mortal. Scriptural history is replete with stories of saints and scholars who have benefited thus. One such evolved soul is Muthusamy Dikshitar, who was taken under his wings by Yogi Chidambaranathar. Muthusamy's father reluctantly agreed to let his son accompany the ascetic to Kasi where the boy found something invaluable: the grace of Goddess Saraswati. Muthusamy took to the life of a sishya to guru Chidambaranathar like a duck to water. Intrinsically endowed with bhakti he learnt everything that the saint taught him. Muthusamy's mind became calm with the spiritual exposure and with his mind set on the divine power, his ecstatic experiences resulted in an outpouring of devotional hymns. Realising that his sishya was fully equipped to guide other devotees on bhakti, Chidambaranathar one day asked Muthusamy to stand in the waters of the Ganga; the student did so, with his mind fully focused on the divine, when he found something caressing his arms. Upon opening his eyes he found a beautiful veena in front of him, with the words Rama inscribed upon it. It was Saraswati's way of acknowledging his devotion. Muthusamy went on to become a great devotional musician, emerging as one of the musical trinity of south India.

## INBRIEF

### Aurobindo arm's warehouse gets OAI after U.S. FDA audit

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration U.S. (FDA) has classified a warehouse of Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary in New Jersey, as Official Action Indicated (OAI) after an inspection it conducted. Such a classification means regulatory and/or administrative actions are recommended by the regulator for the facility the U.S. FDA has inspected. "The inspection had concluded with five observations," the generic drugmaker said.

### 'Front-end manufacturing in U.S. can help counter tariffs'

Getting a front-end manufacturing foothold in the U.S. appears to be the way out for India's generic drugmakers in the event of U.S. levying tariffs on pharmaceuticals, Natco Pharma's vice-chairman and CEO Rajeev Nannapaneni said during an investor call recently. He said this in response to a query around the evolving tariff scenario in the U.S. According to sources, the U.S. follows a zero tariff regime on pharmaceuticals from India currently.

### Flipkart Ventures to back five early stage Indian start-ups

Flipkart Ventures, the investment arm of Flipkart, has chosen five early stage start-ups, Xportel, Factors.ai, Expertia.ai, Bharat Krushi Seva, and Visa2Fly, under the third cohort of its Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA). Through the FLA programme, these start-ups would receive equity investments up to $5,00,000 each along with a customised mentorship designed by a global consulting firm, said Flipkart Ventures on Thursday.

# Sri Lanka 'not seeking to renegotiate' power deal with Adani Green

Open to talks if the company commits new investment through proper channels, says top Sri Lankan Energy Ministry official

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

Colombo is not seeking to renegotiate the contentious renewable energy project with Adani Green, a top Sri Lankan official said, a week after the company abruptly pulled out of a wind farm initiative in the island's Northern Province.

Adani Green, which had pledged an investment of $442 million in wind power plants in Mannar and Pooneryn, informed Sri Lanka's Board of Investment (BOI) in a letter dated February 12 that it would "respectfully withdraw" from the project, even as the government sought a lower tariff for power purchase.

**'Remain committed'**

In a media statement on the decision, a spokesperson of the Adani Group said, "We remain committed to Sri Lanka and are open to future collaboration if the Government of Sri Lanka so desires."

However, indicating that the outreach on such a future investment must come from the company's side, and not Sri Lanka's, K.T.M. Udayanga Hemapala, Secretary to the Ministry of Energy, told *The Hindu* on Thursday: "The company has decided to withdraw from the project, it is their call. We are now in the process of addressing the legal requirements after they decided to close the project. But if the company wishes to return, and commits an investment through the BOI, we are open to talking to them based on our position that the tariff must be lower."

While the government is keen to bring in foreign investments to Sri Lanka, it would not lobby any specific investor, he added. "We welcome all investors through proper channels, they must follow due process. We will ensure that the investments are beneficial to our people."

Citing ongoing cases at Sri Lankan courts challenging the Adani power project, Mr. Hemapala said the petitions were based on three main concerns: whether the project was to be considered "Government-to-Government", the validity of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken, and the power-purchasing tariff.

Adani Green's recent decision to withdraw from the project came weeks after President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's Cabinet revoked a 2024 power purchasing agreement – signed by the predecessor President Ranil Wickremesinghe administration – according to which Sri Lanka was to purchase power at $0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kWh from Adani Green Energy.

**JV proposal cleared**

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Cabinet cleared a proposal to set up solar power plants in Sampur, in the eastern Trincomalee district, in a joint venture of the governments of Sri Lanka and India, through the Ceylon Electricity Board and National Thermal Power Corporation of India.

# Portfolio firms are on high capex path, claims Adani Group

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

A day after the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) informed a New York local court that it was pursuing the bribery allegations case against the Adanis, the Adani Group claimed that its group companies were on a high capex path and in good financial health.

"Adani Portfolio companies are now on a high capex path, with a strong base of increasing cashflow generation and project execution outlay of the respective portfolio companies," Adani Group said in a statement. "This will position the respective portfolio companies as the global leaders in their respective sectors," it added.

The Adani portfolio of companies, for the third quarter, reported double-digit growth in EBITDA and have sufficient liquidity to cover debt servicing requirements for at least the next 12 months, the Adani Group said.

The trailing-twelve-month (TTM) EBITDA grew 10.1% year on year at ₹86,789 crore, and the core infrastructure businesses accounted for 84% of total EBITDA, the group said.

# Vedanta will split into five companies as it gets nod for demerger

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Vedanta Ltd. said it had received the approval of shareholders and creditors for the proposed demerger of the company into five sector-specific independent companies to harness full potential.

The company said in a filing with the exchanges that the proposal was approved by 99.99% shareholders, 99.59% secured creditors, and 99.95% of unsecured creditors.

As per the scheme, each shareholder will receive one additional share in each of the four new demerged entities once the process is complete.

The companies to be demerged include Vedanta Aluminium Ltd., Vedanta Oil & Gas Ltd., Vedanta Power Ltd., Vedanta Iron & Steel Ltd., and Vedanta Ltd., which will house the Zinc business and will be the incubator for new business, Vedanta said.

The company on Thursday announced raising ₹2,600 crore via NCDs. Vedanta shares gained 2.4% to close at ₹433.55 on the BSE on Thursday.

## MARKETS

### MARKET WATCH

| | THURSDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 75,736 | -0.27 |
| US Dollar | 86.64 | 0.39 |
| Gold | 89,450 | 0.05 |
| Brent oil | 76.76 | 0.43 |

### NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2179.00 | -1.80 |
| Adani Ports | 1111.70 | 28.85 |
| Apollo Hosp | 6390.95 | -31.70 |
| Asian Paints | 2249.05 | 9.95 |
| Axis Bank | 1017.20 | 5.85 |
| Bajaj Auto | 8630.20 | 150.70 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1881.25 | 5.90 |
| Bajaj Finance | 8399.45 | -40.00 |
| Bharat Elec | 260.25 | 6.85 |
| Bharti Airtel | 1643.50 | -1.70 |
| BPCL | 258.60 | 3.00 |
| Britannia Ind | 4832.40 | -5.10 |
| Cipla | 1479.70 | 15.55 |
| Coal India | 367.95 | 5.65 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 1170.95 | 5.10 |
| Eicher Motors | 4888.40 | 77.80 |
| Grasim Ind | 2453.70 | -9.50 |
| HCL Tech | 1687.55 | -24.75 |
| HDFC Bank | 1687.10 | -40.10 |
| HDFC Life | 620.00 | -2.85 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 3909.10 | 29.95 |
| Hindalco | 638.80 | 12.50 |
| Hind Unilever | 2248.05 | -2.35 |
| ICICI Bank | 1249.95 | -11.70 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1047.65 | 11.85 |
| Infosys | 1825.15 | 14.35 |
| ITC | 402.05 | -4.35 |
| JSW Steel | 981.15 | 3.80 |
| Kotak Bank | 1970.55 | -14.45 |
| L&T | 3275.80 | -0.10 |
| M&M | 2839.45 | 82.05 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 12440.65 | -245.50 |
| NestleIndia | 2206.75 | 1.80 |
| NTPC | 325.15 | 10.35 |
| ONGC | 241.90 | 3.60 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 265.75 | 2.70 |
| Reliance Ind | 1233.00 | 5.55 |
| SBI Life | 1469.80 | -5.80 |
| State Bank | 729.70 | 2.40 |
| Shriram Finance Ltd. | 580.85 | 23.05 |
| Sun Pharma | 1669.30 | -7.30 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 1008.90 | -16.40 |
| Tata Motors | 689.80 | 8.80 |
| Tata Steel | 138.04 | 2.28 |
| TCS | 3779.40 | -4.70 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1657.85 | -27.95 |
| Titan | 3191.45 | -18.85 |
| Trent Ltd. | 5099.50 | 108.05 |
| UltraTech Cement | 11287.60 | -3.95 |
| Wipro | 313.30 | -0.80 |

### EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 20

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 86.46 | 86.78 |
| Euro | 90.27 | 90.61 |
| British Pound | 109.06 | 109.48 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 57.62 | 57.84 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.91 | 11.96 |
| Swiss Franc | 95.84 | 96.20 |
| Singapore Dollar | 64.62 | 64.87 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.83 | 61.06 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 19.51 | 19.60 |
| Australian Dollar | 55.11 | 55.31 |

Source:Indian Bank

# IKEA braces for India's new furniture rules amid supply chain challenges

**N. Ravi Kumar**
HYDERABAD

A quality control order for furniture under India's consideration is set to be the next big challenge for Swedish home furnishings major IKEA as it stabilises retail operations after the impact of such regulations introduced for toys and steel in recent years.

The norms for furniture could be the biggest, IKEA India CEO and CSO Susanne Pulverer said on the likely bearing of the upcoming regulation for the business. Since the standards vary from those elsewhere globally, certification of products conforming to the new norms could mean more time for it head to the store. "You need to take care of the range to make sure it's compliant. We will never compromise on selling anything that is not compliant," she asserted, pointing out to how following the 2023 QC order for steel IKEA took out non-compliant pots and pans and restocked empty shelves with those in line with the norms. A similar approach was adopted when the order governing toys came in 2021.

Changing supply chains and setting up local sourcing, however, required time, she said, adding another group entity was incharge of sourcing. Unlike toys and steel products, furniture accounted for a bigger share of IKEA's 7,000 product range in India. Home furnishings industry is already in dialogue with the government and looked forward to harmonised standards. Optimising the supply chain will be a challenge in the event of different standards, she said during a select media interaction at IKEA's store in Hyderabad recently. The proposed regulations for furniture were discussed at WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) meeting. Welcoming India's objective to ensure only products with a high level of quality find their way to the market, European Union voiced concern at how the QC order sets mandatory requirements on quality and performance, which will lead to over engineered products, demanding separate production lines, with at best marginally better consumer utility benefits and have an impact on the cost of the product.

> You need to take care of the range to make sure it's compliant. We will never compromise on selling anything that is not compliant
>
> **SUSANNE PULVERER,** IKEA India CEO and CSO

**Cumbersome process**

EU said the Indian certification process is extremely cumbersome, costly and lead to year-long go-to-market delays, WTO documents on the meetings, including one in November 2024, showed. India responded saying the standards have been formulated with considerable assistance from various international standards like ISO/EN and considering typical Indian consumer expectations and usage conditions. In terms of localisation, IKEA has achieved 30% and targets 60%. IKEA, which has been sourcing from India for decades, in 2018 made a retail foray with opening of its first store in the country, a 4.8 lakh sq. ft facility in Hyderabad. In the first phase, it committed to Rs.10,500 crore investment and as part of which opened, besides the Hyderabad facility, a big format store each in Navi Mumbai and Bengaluru as also city store in Worli, Mumbai.

Maharashtra, A.P., Telangana, Gujarat and Karnataka are States where it has rolled out e-commerce operations. Two IKEA store-anchored Ingka Centres Meeting Places are taking shape in Gurugram and Noida. On the next phase expansion, she said it is yet to be finalised. Chennai and Pune figure in list of new cities under consideration of IKEA for setting up facilities.

On profitability, Ms. Pulverer said COVID-19, inflation trends and disruption in supply chains, besides the QC orders, were factors that impacted operations. However, with its continued focus on affordability for customers IKEA is hoping to achieve operational profitability in a couple of years.

# Centre plans to lease over 10 airports under PPP mode, begins consultations

**Rohit Vaid**
NEW DELHI

The Centre has begun consultations on leasing (privatise) over 10 airports under the public-private partnership (PPP) model, sources told *businessline*.

According to the sources, an inter-ministerial consultation process was initiated recently with the circulation of a Cabinet note seeking opinion from different ministries.

"We have received replies on the note and are now in the consultation phase," a source told *businessline*.

As per sources, the Cabinet will decide which airports will be leased out and if any new terms and conditions should be added in the concession agreement for the upcoming round.

Speculation is rife that AAI airports under consideration may include key regional hubs such as Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Raipur and Tiruchi.

Airports in Kushinagar, Gaya, Hubli, Aurangabad and Tirupati could also be considered. Besides, the Centre is contemplating bundling profitable and non-profitable airports for the bidding process.

The initiative falls under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), which seeks to tap into private sector expertise to revamp and operate key assets, improve passenger experience, and drive economic growth.

*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

A student benefit initiative for studying abroad by Fragomen Educational Services and The Hindu.

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**Navigating the Study Abroad Journey**

While studying abroad is an exciting prospect, it comes with its own set of challenges. Deciding on the right country, university, and course can feel overwhelming, considering that every destination has unique requirements. Most study abroad consultants offer free counselling to students, but in this era of complexities, there is a need to look beyond traditional counselling. The focus should be on gaining a global perspective that can help you make informed decisions about your academics, career, and long-term success.

From meeting application deadlines to preparing documents, every step matters in securing admission to a university of your choice. The key is to stay proactive, be prepared and present your best self so that your application can stand out from the rest of the crowd.

**Understanding Immigration Policies & Visa Regulations**

Academics is just one aspect and getting accepted into a university is just the beginning—securing a student visa is another crucial step that students often have trouble with. This is evident from the fact that incomplete applications are among the top reasons for rejection among international students.

Understanding ever-evolving immigration policies can be complex, as they go beyond a simple online search and are rarely common knowledge. Having professional guidance during this phase ensures that you have the knowledge and resources at your disposal when it comes to understanding these policies and navigating them. This leads to a seamless transition to life as an international student.

**Settling in as an International Student**

The real journey begins where the formalities and processes end. Adjusting to a new culture and lifestyle requires preparation. Understanding local customs, meticulous financial planning, and networking with peers can make settling in easier.

**Why the Right Study Abroad Partner Matters**

A seamless study abroad experience requires expert guidance. With over 70 years of experience and a presence in 170+ countries, Fragomen is uniquely positioned to assist students at every stage of their journey, right from counselling, admission, financial planning and beyond.

Their dedicated and global network of consultants offers tailored support, ensuring students navigate admissions, visas, and settlement with confidence. Fragomen Educational Services (FES) acts as a mentor and trusted partner, helping students unlock their full potential and embrace this life-changing adventure.

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LONDON

## Britain, France propose European 'reassurance force' for Ukraine

AP

Britain and France are proposing a European "reassurance force" of under 30,000 troops to protect Ukraine post-ceasefire with Russia. This plan, driven by concerns over U.S. President Trump's potential favourable terms for Moscow, emphasises air and maritime defence while minimising ground troops. AFP

COLOMBO

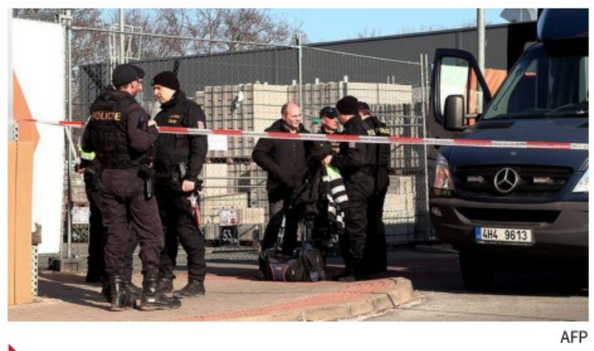
## Train in Sri Lanka runs over six elephants; no passengers hurt

AFP

A Sri Lankan passenger train derailed on Thursday after colliding with a herd of elephants near a wildlife reserve, resulting in the deaths of six elephants. Fortunately, no passengers were injured. The government plans to implement measures to reduce such wildlife accidents in the future. AFP

PRAGUE

## Teenager in Czech Republic held after two killed in knife attack




AFP

A 16-year-old on Thursday killed two women in a knife attack at a shopping centre in Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic. The suspect, a Czech national, was apprehended near the scene, and a knife was found. Police are investigating the motive, and Prime Minister Petr Fiala expressed condolences. AP

WASHINGTON

## Top Republican right-winger McConnell to leave Senate in 2026

AP

Senator Mitch McConnell, at 83, announced he will not seek re-election in 2026, concluding a four-decade Senate career. His retirement marks a significant shift in the Republican Party, reflecting its growing radicalisation. Mr. McConnell described his tenure as "the honour of a lifetime". AFP

# Israel grieves as Hamas turns over the bodies of four Gaza hostages

Militants displayed four black coffins on a stage in Gaza surrounded by banners, including a large one depicting Prime Minister Netanyahu as a vampire; Hamas is set to release six hostages tomorrow in exchange for Palestinian prisoners

**Associated Press**
JERUSALEM

Hamas on Thursday released the bodies of four Israeli hostages, said to include a mother and her two children who have long been feared dead and had come to embody the nation's agony following the October 7, 2023, attack.

The remains were presumed to be of Shiri Bibas and her two children, Ariel and Kfir, as well as Oded Lifshitz, who was 83 when he was abducted. Kfir, who was 9 months old when he was taken, was the youngest captive. Hamas has said all four were killed along with their guards in Israeli air strikes.

**Grim return:** Armed Palestinian militants stand next to the coffins of Israeli hostages in Khan Younis on Thursday. AFP

"Our hearts – the hearts of an entire nation – lie in tatters," Israeli President Isaac Herzog said in a statement. "On behalf of the State of Israel, I bow my head and ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness for not protecting you on that terrible day. Forgiveness for not bringing you home safely."

The militants displayed four black coffins on a stage in the Gaza Strip surrounded by banners, including a large one depicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a vampire. Thousands of people, including large numbers of masked and armed militants, looked on as the coffins were loaded onto Red Cross vehicles before being driven to Israeli forces.

The military held a small funeral ceremony, at the request of the families, before transferring the bodies to a laboratory in Israel for formal identification using DNA, a process that could take up to two days. Israelis have celebrated the return of 24 living hostages in recent weeks under a tenuous ceasefire that paused over 15 months of war. But the handover on Thursday was a grim reminder of those who died in captivity.

Hamas is set to free six living hostages on Saturday in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and says it will release four more bodies next week, completing the ceasefire's first phase. That will leave the militants with some 60 hostages, all men, around half of whom are believed to be dead.

# U.S. govt. should 'take over' Washington, says Trump

**Agence France-Presse**
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump said the federal government should "take over Washington DC," as the U.S. President complained about crime, graffiti and "too many tents on the lawns".

Mr. Trump has had a contentious relationship with the nation's capital's Democratic mayor, Muriel Bowser, since his first term in office. "I think that we should govern the District of Columbia... I think that we should run it strong, run it with law and order, make it absolutely flawless," he told presspersons late Wednesday on Air Force One. "The federal government should take over the governance of DC and run it really, really properly."

Donald Trump

Mr. Trump said he likes the mayor and gets along "great" with her. "But they're not doing the job – too much crime, too much graffiti, too many tents on the lawns."

The Republican leader said he wanted to make the city safe because people were "getting killed" and "being hurt". He also raised the issue of homelessness, saying: "It's a sad thing, homeless people all over the place. We've got to take care of the homeless, but we can't have that in Washington DC."

Mr. Trump raised concerns over welcoming foreign leaders to the city given the situation, including French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and China's Xi Jinping.

Washington, with a population of around 7,00,000, is a federal district rather than a state.

Two Republican lawmakers introduced a Bill in early February to repeal the city's Home Rule Act, which would effectively strip the mayor and city council of their authority.

Ms. Bowser has not directly responded to the President but stated on X that Washington "is a world-class city".

# EU defends Ukraine President after Trump calls him a 'dictator'

**Agence France-Presse**
BRUSSELS

**There can be no solution for Ukraine without the involvement of Ukraine, says EU spokesperson**

The European Union on Thursday hit back against U.S. President Donald Trump's accusation that Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy was a "dictator".

Mr. Trump lashed out at Mr. Zelenskyy in a spiralling row after Washington launched peace efforts with Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the Kremlin's three-year war.

"We have a fairly straightforward and clear position on this: President Zelenskyy was legitimately elected in free, fair and democratic elections," EU spokesperson Stefan de Keersmaecker told presspersons.

"Ukraine is a democracy, Putin's Russia is not."

Mr. Trump's broadsides against the Ukrainian leader have fuelled fears in Europe that Washington is abandoning its ally in Kyiv to secure a quick deal with Moscow.

The EU insists that both Ukraine and Europe must have a say during any negotiations.

"There can be no solution for Ukraine without the involvement of Ukraine, nor without the involvement of the European Union," Mr. de Keersmaecker said.

"Ukraine's security is the European Union's security."

# Zelenskyy calls for 'strong ties' with U.S. amid Trump spat

**Agence France-Presse**
KYIV

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday called for a strong relationship between Kyiv and Washington, amid rising tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Strong Ukraine-U.S. relations benefit the entire world," Mr. Zelenskyy said after holding what he called a "productive meeting" with U.S. envoy Keith Kellogg on the "battlefield situation, how to return our prisoners of war, and effective security guarantees".

This meeting comes after Mr. Trump labelled Mr. Zelenskyy a "dictator" and criticised him for allegedly mismanaging U.S. aid, while claiming that Russia holds the upper hand in negotiations. The rift intensified as Mr. Trump initiated discussions with Russia without Ukrainian involvement, alarming both Kyiv and European allies.

Mr. Zelenskyy accused Mr. Trump of succumbing to "Russian disinformation", asserting that Ukraine must be included in all negotiations regarding its future.

Mr. Trump's administration has pushed for a quick resolution to the war, which has drawn ire from European leaders who fear being sidelined.

In response to the ongoing conflict, Mr. Zelenskyy called for unity among Ukrainians and Europeans, stating that "together with America and Europe, peace can be more secure." The situation remains tense as both leaders navigate their complex relationship.

# Bangladesh security forces kill two men in crackdown, sparking rights concerns

**Agence France-Presse**
DHAKA

**The country has been struggling to control crime since Hasina's ouster in August 2024**

Bangladeshi security forces killed two men on Thursday in a crackdown on rising violent crime, a spokesperson said, rejecting fears the deaths appeared to mirror previous notorious tactics of extrajudicial killings.

Sami-Ud-Dowla Chowdhury, spokesperson for the security forces, said two men were killed in the early hours of Thursday morning after they shot at officers trying to arrest them in connection to a spate of robberies. "The perpetrators opened fire from the roof of a single-story building, prompting the team to retaliate," the security forces said in a statement, saying officers "recovered two dead bodies" as well as machetes and a pistol. Five other men were arrested.

"They were culprits," Mr. Chowdhury said.

Bangladesh has been struggling to control crime since former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced from power in August 2024 by a mass uprising against her iron-fisted rule.

Under her watch, Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies faced accusations of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

Police in Dhaka said the number of robberies has doubled since January last year. During Ms. Hasina's rule, the feared paramilitary Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) carried out scores of killings. The force was slapped with U.S. sanctions in 2021, after which extrajudicial killings stopped.

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a leading Bangladeshi human rights organisation, warned against heavy-handed tactics. "We urge law enforcement agencies to conduct raids with caution to avoid loss of lives," it said.

"Over the last two decades, we have witnessed thousands of extrajudicial killings, which had zero impact on the law-and-order situation."

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(Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN: U40101KA2007SGC043640)
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Ph: 080-2221 0685 / 2229 4390, Email: director.com2024@gmail.com

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The eligible banks may access BID document from the e-procurement portal **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://www.pckl.karnataka.gov.in from 21.02.2025, 11 am onwards.**

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**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)2nd Call**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3 ( two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account 5054-03-337-0-17-160 SH Renewal Total-01(Indent No. 19129) in Shivamogga tq and 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements Total-01 (Indent No. 18997) in Bhadravathi tq for Maximum Amount put to tender is. Rs.79.42 Lakhs, Minimum Amount put to tender is. Rs.79.13Lakhs & Maximum EMD amount is Rs. 0.80 lakhs & Minimum EMD amount is Rs.0.80 Time allowed for completion of work is 06 Months including Monsoon.

The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP-portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from 19-02-2025 to 27-02-2025 Last date for Receipt of Tender is on 27-02-2025 at 17.00 PM. The Technical bid will be opned on 28-02-2025 at 05.30 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after 01-03-2025 Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through E-Procurement only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga**

DIPR/smg/No.24/11/ksmca/24-25/142/02/1689

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Traffic Engineering Cell, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.**

No. EE/RI-TEC/TEND/15/2024-2025 Date: 20.02.2025

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - 4th CALL**

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through GoK KPP Portal)**

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure- TEC Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work | Aprox. Amount put to tender |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maintenance of BGS Flyover from Town Hall to Sirsi Circle. | Rs. 320.00 lakhs |
| | **EMD : Rs. 4,80,000/-** (Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-Payment and remaining as specified in bid document) | |

Period of Completion : **6 months (including monsoon season).**

**Calendar of Events:** **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24.02.2025. (2)** Last date for submission of pre-bid queries **: 04.03.2025 upto 15.00 hrs. (3)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting **: 04.03.2025 at 16.30 hrs. (4)** Last date for submission of tenders: **07.03.2025 upto 16.00 hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **10.03.2025 at 16.30 hrs. (6)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **will be intimated to tenderers.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
RI - Traffic Engineering Cell, BBMP**

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Medical Superintendent, SRIRAMPURA REFERRAL HOSPITAL, Bengaluru-560 021.

**No: BBMP/2024-25/SE1315** **Date: 20.02.2025**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites Proposals from eligible bidders for the following: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING DIETARY FOOD SERVICES TO BBMP SRIRAMPURAM REFERRAL HOSPITAL AND MAHALAKSHMIPURAM REFERRAL HOSPITAL, ON OUTSOURCED BASIS.

**(1)** Tender Number: **BBMP/2024-25/SE1315. (2)** Date of commencement of download of RFP document from KPP Portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **20.02.2025 onwards. (3)** Last date and time for uploading Online Queries 1 in KPP Portal: **upto 24.02.2025, 5:00 p.m. (4)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting: **24.02.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** at Office of the Medical Superintendent, Srirampura Referral Hospital, Next to Srirampura Police Station, Bengaluru-560 021. **(5)** Last date and time for uploading RFP in KPP Portal: **upto 06.03.2025, 5.00 p.m. (6)** Date and time of online opening of RFP Applications in KPP Portal: **07.03.2025 at 5:10 p.m. (7)** Place of Opening of RFP Applications: Online at KPP Portal. **(8)** Address for Communication: Office of the Medical Superintendent, Srirampura Referral Hospital, Next to Srirampura Police Station, Bengaluru-560 021. e-mail ID: srrhwestzone@gmail.com Contact: 9480683011.

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** 2. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

**Sd/- Medical Superintendent,
Srirampura Referral Hospital, BBMP**

ON A HIGH

## Shami becomes the fastest Indian to reach 200 ODI wickets

AP

Mohammed Shami became the fastest Indian bowler to reach 200 ODI wickets during the ICC Champions Trophy match against Bangladesh. The speedster's wicket of Jaker Ali helped him reach the milestone in his 104th match and better former pacer Ajit Agarkar's record of reaching the mark in 133 matches.

IN ELITE COMPANY

## Rohit becomes second quickest to complete 11,000 runs in ODI cricket

PTI

Rohit Sharma on Thursday became the second fastest batter, after Virat Kohli, to complete 11,000 runs in ODIs, during the Champions Trophy clash against Bangladesh. Rohit is only the fourth Indian and 10th batter overall to reach the mark in the 50-over format. Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly are the other Indians in the list.

OUTSTANDING

## Capitals' skipper Lanning all praise for Sutherland's display

SPORTZPICS/WPL

Delhi Capitals captain Meg Lanning, who led from the front with a match-winning innings against UP Warriorz on Wednesday, praised Annabel Sutherland. "She was outstanding with the ball initially. She got early breakthroughs when we were really under pressure," the skipper said. "Later, she held her nerve while batting as well."

KIRAN'S STRATEGY

## 'My plan was to hit hard and make the most out of the PowerPlay'

SPORTZPICS/WPL

UP Warriorz opener Kiran Navgire, who scored a blistering 51 off 27 balls against Delhi Capitals, said the innings gave her confidence going into the next leg of the WPL, starting in Bengaluru on Friday. "My plan was to watch and hit the ball, and to make the most out of the PowerPlay. I wanted to hit hard and executed that plan."

## SA faces Afghanistan in a tricky opener

**Shayan Acharya**
KARACHI

As Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi started his presser on the eve of his team's Champions Trophy campaign-opener against South Africa, he was asked whether the team was under pressure.

Since 2019, the two teams have featured in five ODIs, with Afghanistan winning just twice. However, Shahidi underplayed the issue and said that the series win in Sharjah, in September last year, will boost the team's morale. And, it's this positive mindset that will be the key for the Afghans.

South Africa, which comes on the back of a string of defeats, looks under-cooked. With its quicks Gerald Coetzee and Anrich Nortje missing out, the team will be banking on Kagiso Rabada, Ngidi Lungi and Marco Jansen to put up a strong fight against the Afghanistan batters.

**The squads (from):**
**South Africa:** Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Tony de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Corbin Bosch.
**Afghanistan:** Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah, Ikram Alikhil, Gulbadin Naib, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharoti, Noor Ahmad, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Farid Malik, Naveed Zadran.
*Match starts at 2:30 pm IST.*

# Shami, Gill do the star turn as India trumps Bangladesh with ease

Ace pacer excels with a five-for before the vice-captain's century takes the Men in Blue home; Hridoy & Jaker bat well for the loser

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

**S. Dipak Ragav**
DUBAI

Shubman Gill's previous three scores coming into the Champions Trophy read: 87, 60 and 112 (all against England). On Thursday, the 25-year-old continued his purple patch as he smashed his eighth ODI hundred (101 n.o, 129b, 9x4, 2x6) to help India kickstart its Champions Trophy campaign with a six-wicket win over Bangladesh at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

In pursuit of a modest target of 229, Gill showed why he is the top-ranked batter in the format as he expertly shepherded the team home.

He was aggressive in the PowerPlay and then hunkered down to navigate the tricky middle phase smartly when the spinners operated before ensuring the Men in Blue got their campaign off to a winning start.

The victory, though, was in no small measure set up by the bowlers led by Mohammed Shami (10-0-53-5), who scalped his sixth five-wicket haul to restrict Bangladesh to 228.

### Good rhythm

The pacer looked in good rhythm, moving the new ball both ways and setting the tone for the game by taking two wickets in the PowerPlay before coming back strongly to clean up the tail.

On a pitch that was on the slower side, it was imperative to maximise the PowerPlay and openers Rohit Sharma and Gill got India off to a flyer, scoring 69 in the first 10 overs.

After starting tentatively against Mustafizur Rahman, Rohit took the left-arm pacer to the cleaners, smoking him for seven boundaries including some serene shots through the square on the off-side.

Gill was not to be left behind, pulling the fiery Tanzim Hasan for a six and then charging down to loft him over covers.

But Bangladesh got back into the contest through its spinners Rishad Hossain and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who squeezed the runs dry during the middle-overs.

Najmul Hossain Shanto's men had a small opening in the game when India lost three wickets for 22 runs and was in a spot of bother at 144 for four.

However, Gill and K.L. Rahul – who reaffirmed his status as the finisher by stroking a measured unbeaten 41 – stitched an unbroken 87-run stand for the fifth wicket to take their side home.

Earlier, it was an innings of two halves for the Tigers, whose top-order just crumbled inside the PowerPlay before Towhid Hridoy (100) and Jaker Ali (68) repaired the damage by forging a masterful 154-run alliance.

Electing to bat, Bangladesh got off on the wrong foot, losing two wickets in the first two overs. Things went pear-shaped in the ninth over when Axar Patel struck off consecutive deliveries to remove Tanzid Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim to leave the Men in Green tottering at 35 for five.

It could have been even worse had Rohit not fumbled a straightforward chance off the very next delivery at first slip, which gave Jaker a reprieve and denied Axar a hat-trick.

Hridoy played patiently till he got to his half-century and seamlessly shifted gears after that, collecting 30 runs off the next 14 deliveries, raining sixes and fours. As he neared his landmark, the 24-year-old started cramping, limping across the pitch, but eventually got there in the penultimate over. Though his efforts gave something for his side to bowl at, it was never going to be enough against a strong Indian batting line-up.

**No stopping him:** The in-form Gill's stylish knock powered India's chase. PTI

SCOREBOARD

**BANGLADESH**
Tanzid Hasan c Rahul b Axar 25 *(25b, 4x4)*, Soumya Sarkar c Rahul b Shami 0 *(5b)*, Najmul Shanto c Kohli b Harshit 0 *(2b)*, Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Gill b Shami 5 *(10b, 1x4)*, Towhid Hridoy c Shami b Harshit 100 *(118b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahul b Axar 0 *(1b)*, Jaker Ali c Kohli b Shami 68 *(114b, 4x4)*, Rishad Hossain c Hardik b Harshit 18 *(12b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Tanzim Hasan b Shami 0 *(4b)*, Taskin Ahmed c Shreyas b Shami 3 *(6b)*, Mustafizur Rahman (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-7, nb-1): 9; Total (in 49.4 overs): 228.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-1 (Sarkar, 0.6 overs), 2-2 (Najmul, 1.4), 3-26 (Mehidy, 6.2), 4-35 (Tanzid, 8.2), 5-35 (Mushfiqur, 8.3), 6-189 (Jaker, 42.4), 7-214 (Rishad, 45.3), 8-215 (Tanzim, 46.2), 9-228 (Taskin, 48.4).

**INDIA BOWLING**
Shami 10-0-53-5, Harshit 7.4-0-31-3, Axar 9-1-43-2, Hardik 4-0-20-0, Jadeja 9-0-37-0, Kuldeep 10-0-43-0.

**INDIA**
Rohit Sharma c Rishad b Taskin 41 *(36b, 7x4)*, Shubman Gill (not out) 101 *(129b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Virat Kohli c Sarkar b Rishad 22 *(38b, 1x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Najmul b Mustafizur 15 *(17b, 2x4)*, Axar Patel c & b Rishad 8 *(12b, 1x4)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 41 *(47b, 1x4, 2x6)*; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 46.3 overs): 231.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-69 (Rohit, 9.5), 2-112 (Kohli, 22.4), 3-133 (Shreyas, 27.4), 4-144 (Axar, 30.1).

**BANGLADESH BOWLING**
Taskin 9-0-36-1, Mustafizur 9-0-62-1, Tanzim 8.3-0-58-0, Mehidy 10-0-37-0, Rishad 10-0-38-2.

*India won by six wickets with 21 balls to spare.*
**Toss:** Bangladesh.
**PoM:** Gill.

Shami. AFP

## Rohit lauds Shami and Gill's performance

**Sports Bureau**
DUBAI

India skipper Rohit Sharma was pleased with his team's performance following his side's convincing six-wicket win and heaped praise on Mohammed Shami and Shubman Gill.

"Very happy for Shami. It was a long waiting time. We know what he brings for us. The quality he has. Every time we throw the ball at him, he's got something up his sleeve, and we need guys like him to step up in big moments," said Rohit while speaking to the broadcaster after the game.

"Gill, we know the class he has. He's been batting brilliantly of late and what he showed us today shouldn't surprise anyone. What was good to see was that he was there till the end," he added.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto felt that losing five wickets in the PowerPlay put the team on the back foot.

# Exploring new pastures has paid off as Vadodara shows at the WPL

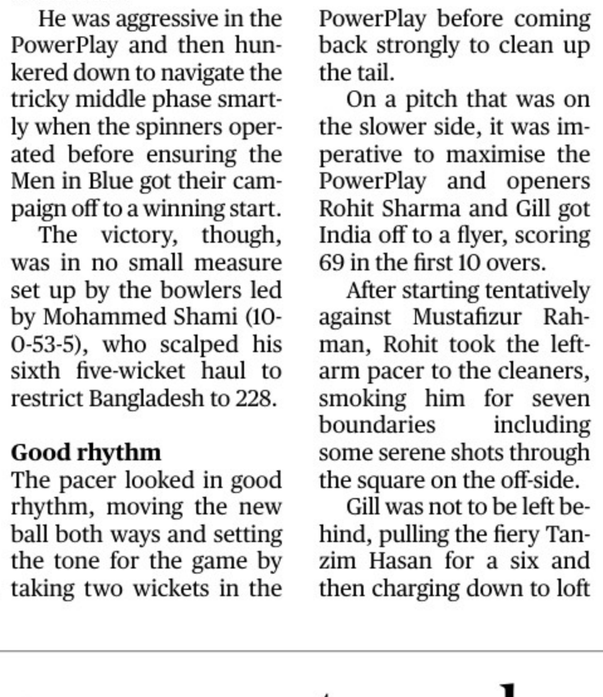
**P.K. Ajith Kumar**
VADODARA

Over the last six days, close to midnight on the Vadodara Halol Highway, you could see scores of young men, and some women too, walking along for miles. Some of them would signal towards the speeding vehicles, hoping to hitch a ride, though not with apparent success.

The newly-built BCA Stadium is about 25 km away from the city, and getting public transportation late into the night could be extremely difficult. But that didn't stop the cricket fans of the cultural capital of Gujarat turning up in large numbers for every match of the third season of the WPL.

The decision to take women's cricket's most glamorous league to newer pastures has indeed been justified. Last year, the WPL travelled to Bengaluru and New Delhi.

And there is another new stop this season: Lucknow, where UP Warriorz will become the last team to get an opportunity to play in front of its fans. Gujarat Giants certainly loved its time before its supporters here.



**Tough challenge:** Smriti, right, will have her task cut out as RCB gets ready to face an impressive MI. K. MURALI KUMAR

The first match saw the Giants going past 200, but the defending champion RCB chased that total down with ease. It was for the first time in the WPL that a team batting second was scoring that many runs.

That match also set the template for the rest of the Vadodara leg: all the games were won by chasing. An excellent track and the dew factor made the decision after winning the toss a no-brainer.

RCB is looking impressive. That, mind you, is despite the absence of some of its stars, such as Sophie Devine, Sophie Molineux, Asha Sobhana and Shreyanka Patil.

Smriti Mandhana's women, however, may not find it easy to retain the title. Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Giants have all looked good enough so far. UP Warriorz, the only team without a win so far, will have to up its game.

# Indian men look to address PC concerns; women hope to return to winning ways

FIH PRO LEAGUE

**Uthra Ganesan**
BHUBANESWAR

The last time Janneke Schopman was in India with a national team, she had to oversee the Indian women missing the bus for the Paris Olympics, going down in the qualifiers which Germany eventually won.

On Friday, she would be in the same German dugout, planning victory against her former wards who have not had a great time in the FIH Pro League so far with just one win in four games. The Germans haven't done any better and are yet to win in their six outings but have the advantage of experimenting as much as they want - as winners of the 2023-24 season, they are already assured of a World Cup spot.

The Indians, meanwhile, are in a rebuilding phase, testing new faces and combinations under a coach who needs to balance experimentation with results.

The team has impressed in patches and some of the newcomers including debutants Rutuja Pisal and Sakshi Rana have performed well but the team has not been able to find its rhythm or match up to the opponents' pace and quick counters.

Coach Harendra Singh would be hoping his girls find consistency against a side they have beaten outright just once in the last 19 years.

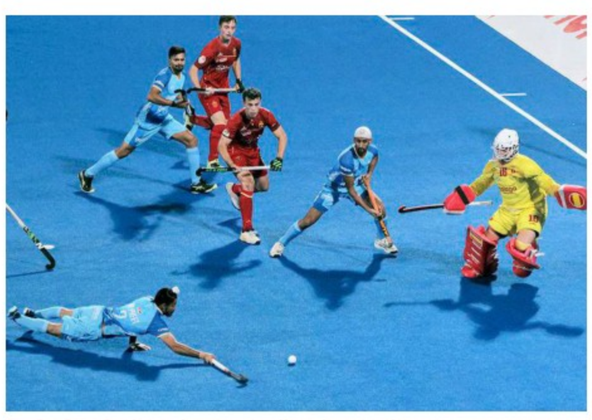
The men will have it slightly easier, on paper, taking on lower-ranked Ireland in their next two games but aware that their opponents have the reputation of punching above their weight.

That coach Craig Fulton would have the inside information on many of those players will definitely be an advantage but the last time the two teams met, at Paris, India had to work hard for its victory.

Ireland last beat India at the Azlan Shah Cup in 2018 and though the host holds a 7-1 advantage in their last nine outings with one draw, its penalty corner concerns are steadily growing. The team is yet to convert from the 14 it has earned so far.

Harmanpreet Singh sat out a couple of matches and Jugraj Singh, the top-scorer in the HIL, has failed to replicate that form with the national team.

Also playing its first game here will be World No. 1 Netherlands, taking on England to get back on the winning track after an upset loss to Argentina in the previous leg in December. The Dutch women have come with a fairly young side that, incredibly, still has 11 from the gold-winning Olympic side.



**Task ahead:** The Indian men will seek to work on consistency. BISWARANJAN ROUT

**Friday's matches:**
**Women:** England vs The Netherlands (3 pm), India vs Germany (5.15 pm).
**Men:** India vs Ireland (7.30 pm).

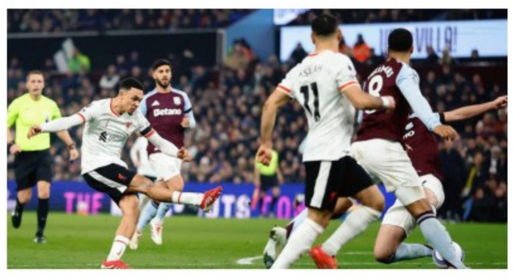
## INBRIEF

### Advani clinches Asian snooker crown

Pankaj Advani won the Asian snooker championship, beating Iran's Amir Sarkhosh 4-1 in the final, in Doha, on Wednesday, for his 14th title at the continental cuesports championships. Advani's fifth Asian snooker crown (across 15-red, 6-reds, and team formats) is a welcome addition to nine Asian billiards titles and two Asian Games gold medals in 2006 and 2010. "Winning my 14th Asian title is incredibly special, especially in snooker. It has been a tough tournament, and I'm thrilled to add another gold to my collection. I hope to carry this momentum forward and keep making India proud," said the cuesports great.

### Indian archers set under-21 World record

The Indian men's compound team, comprising Kushal Dalal, Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao and Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru, has set a new under-21 world record by aggregating 2129 points in the qualification round of the Asia Cup World ranking tournament, Stage-1, in Bangkok. The team surpassed the previous record of 2111 for 216 arrows over 50 metres.



### Liverpool's title charge dented by Aston Villa draw

Liverpool's Premier League title charge was slowed by Aston Villa after a pulsating 2-2 draw on Wednesday. Liverpool has an eight-point lead at the top over second-placed Arsenal, but the Gunners now have a game in hand over the Reds.

**The result:** Aston Villa 2 (Tielemans 38, Watkins 45+3) drew with Liverpool 2 (Salah 29, Alexander-Arnold 61).

### Messi's strike gives Miami victory over Sporting KC

Lionel Messi scored from the right side of the box in the 56th minute to lift Inter Miami past Sporting Kansas City 1-0 on Wednesday in the first leg of the CONCACAF Champions Cup's first round in Kansas City. The clubs play the second-leg in Miami on Tuesday.

### India blanks Jordan 2-0 in Pink Ladies Cup

India kicked off its Pink Ladies Cup 2025 football campaign with a commanding 2-0 victory over Jordan in Sharjah on Thursday. Midfielder Naorem Priyangka Devi (23rd minute) and winger Manisha (54th) struck to give India its first win with Crispin Chettri as the head coach.

### Team MRF Tyres enters British Rally Championship

MRF Tyres announced its inclusion as the official tyre supplier for the 2025 British Rally Championship and its team's participation in the competition, through a release on Thursday. Team MRF Tyres will be represented by British drivers James Williams and Max Mcrae. "We are excited to take on this new challenge and represent India on the global motorsports platform," said Arun Mammen, vice-chairman and managing director, MRF.

### Blanchet beats Jacquet in the pre-quarterfinals

Ugo Blanchet of France beat compatriot Kyrian Jacquet 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the Pune Metropolitan $160,000 Maha Open Challenger tennis pre-quarterfinals on Thursday.

**The results: Pre-quarterfinals:** Billy Harris bt Hiroki Moriya 7-5, 6-3; Brandon Holt bt Sascha Wayenburg 6-4, 6-4; Ugo Blanchet bt Kyrian Jacquet 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; Khumoyun Sultanov bt Bernard Tomic 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3, 2-6, [12-10; Niki Poonacha & Courtney Lock bt Blake Ellis & Tristan Schoolkate 7-6(4), 6-7(4), [10-8]; Jay Clarke & Jurij Rodionov bt Petr Biryukov & Ilia Simakin 7-6(5), 6-3; Blake Bayldon & Matthew Romios bt Enrico Dalla Valle & Khumoyun Sultanov 6-3, 4-6, [12-10].

# Jaymeet puts Gujarat within striking distance of Kerala's big total

The batter displays a rock-solid temperament during his unbeaten 74 to put the home side just 28 behind; Jalaj scalps four for the visitor

**All class:** The 22-year-old Jaymeet played a knock beyond his years. R.V. MOORTHY

RANJI TROPHY

**Anish Pathiyil**
AHMEDABAD

Jalaj Saxena's four-wicket haul seemed to be taking Kerala to the cusp of history, but a knock beyond his years from Gujarat's Jaymeet Patel ensured the first Ranji Trophy semifinal is tantalisingly poised heading into the final day.

The 22-year-old Jaymeet (74 batting) has been in magnificent form in his maiden First Class season, leading the team's run-scoring charts. And on Thursday, he displayed a rock-solid temperament to champion Gujarat's push towards Kerala's first-innings score, with the team just 28 runs behind with three wickets in hand.

Earlier, Gujarat suffered a jolt five overs into the day when Manan Hingrajia was contentiously given out leg before wicket on 33 by the third umpire after a Kerala review. Replays suggested the ball seemed to make contact with the bat and pad at the same instant.

Centurion Priyank Panchal and Urvil Patel took full toll of a spread out field, adding 39 quick runs before Saxena got one to turn in from the rough and knock back the stumps with Panchal stranded at 148. The veteran off-spinner outfoxed the hard-hitting Urvil four overs later, beating the outside edge as he looked to waltz down the ground, with Mohammed Azharuddeen whipping the bails off in a flash.

Hemang Patel, the concussion substitute for Ravi Bishnoi, played the role of the aggressor, adding a valuable 27. The mandatory new-ball introduction, upon completion of 100 overs, helped the visitor remove the hard-hitter, whose wild slash outside off against M.D. Nidheesh was held brilliantly by substitute Shoun Roger at deep third man.

After Saxena removed Chintan Gaja in the first over after lunch, Jaymeet forged crucial partnerships with Vishal Jayswal and Siddharth Desai to cut down the target one step at a time. Siddharth aced at what was expected of him – blocking out the deliveries and handing over strike to the more accomplished batter – taking the home team to the brink of a third Ranji final.

**The scores: Kerala — 1st innings:** 457.

**Gujarat — 1st innings:** Priyank Panchal b Saxena 148, Aarya Desai b Basil 73, Manan Hingrajia lbw b Saxena 33, Urvil Patel st Azharuddeen b Saxena 25, Hemang Patel (concussion substitute for Ravi Bishnoi) c (sub) Roger b Nidheesh 27, Jaymeet Patel (batting) 74, Chintan Gaja lbw b Saxena 2, Vishal Jayswal c Basil b Sarwate 14, Siddharth Desai (batting) 24; Extras (b-7, lb-2): 9; Total (for seven wkts. in 154 overs): 429.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-131, 2-238, 3-277, 4-292, 5-320, 6-325, 7-357.

**Kerala bowling:** Nidheesh 23-4-86-1, Saxena 61-12-137-4, Basil 22-1-59-1, Sarwate 36-3-104-1, Chandran 11-0-31-0, Imran 1-0-3-0.

## Yash, Dubey shine as Vidarbha tightens the noose around Mumbai

**Amol Karhadkar**
NAGPUR

No team has managed to successfully chase down a target in excess of 400 in the Ranji Trophy's nine-decade history so far. With a place in the final up for grabs, Mumbai will be hoping against hope to pull off a heist on the last day of its Ranji Trophy semifinal against Vidarbha.

At the end of the penultimate day's proceedings at the Vidarbha Cricket Association stadium on Thursday, the home team was firmly in control of the game.

Riding on the bespectacled Yash Rathod's (151, 252b, 11x4) fifth hundred of the season and his 158-run partnership for the fifth wicket with captain Akshay Wadkar (52, 202b, 5x4), Vidarbha finished its second essay for 292 at the stroke of tea.

Harsh Dubey, the left-arm spinner who is in the form of his life, and rookie counterpart Parth Rekhade then struck vital blows to reduce Mumbai to 83 for three at stumps.

Yash. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Despite the presence of Shivam Dube at the crease and Suryakumar Yadav yet to take guard along with an in-form allrounder trio, Mumbai faces an uphill task especially while batting on a last day surface which has seen awkward bounce and the odd ball turning.

The pitch played a role in Ajinkya Rahane's dismissal in the extended half hour when the ball kept low to leave the Mumbai captain stranded in front of the stumps. In fact, the umpires checked whether the ball had bounced twice but the decision went in Rekhade's favour.

Dubey had earlier extended his season's tally to 63 wickets.

**The scores: Vidarbha – 1st innings:** 383.
**Mumbai – 1st innings:** 270.
**Vidarbha – 2nd innings:** Atharva Taide lbw b Thakur 0, Dhruv Shorey lbw b Kotian 13, Danish Malewar c & b Mulani 29, Karun Nair lbw b Mulani 6, Yash Rathod c Rahane b Kotian 151, Akshay Wadkar b Mulani 52, Harsh Dubey lbw b Kotian 1, Darshan Nalkande c (sub) b Mulani 4, Parth Rekhade c Kotian b Mulani 20, Nachiket Bhute c Rahane b Mulani 1, Yash Thakur (not out) 0; Extras (b-5, lb-6, nb-3, w-1): 15; Total (in 110.1 overs): 292.
**Fall of wickets:** 1-0, 2-40, 3-52, 4-56, 5-214, 6-221, 7-228, 8-262, 9-274.
**Mumbai bowling:** Shardul 14-3-55-1, Avasthi 6-0-23-0, Mulani 44-9-85-6, Dias 9-4-17-0, Kotian 33.1-3-81-3, Shivam 3-0-17-0, Mhatre 1-0-3-0.
**Mumbai – 2nd innings:** Akash Anand (batting) 27, Ayush Mhatre b Dubey 18, Siddhesh Lad st Wadkar b Dubey 2, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Rekhade 12, Shivam Dube (batting) 12; Extras (b-7, nb-5): 12; Total (for 3 wickets, 31 overs): 83.
**Fall of wickets:** 1-26, 2-37, 3-65.
**Vidarbha bowling:** Bhute 4-1-14-0, Nalkande 2-0-9-0, Dubey 13-3-26-2, Yash 3-0-8-0, Rekhade 8-1-16-1, Karun 1-0-3-0.

## Overall team title for Haryana

**Best on show:** The Haryana team with its big reward. R. RAGU

NATL. PARA ATHLETICS

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

Haryana won the overall team (men & women) titles (49 gold, 32 silver and 25 bronze) on the final day of the 23rd National para athletics championships at the Nehru Stadium here on Thursday.

Tamil Nadu finished second (17, 18, 12) while Uttar Pradesh (14, 17, 11) came third.

The discus throw events saw stiff competition, with Pradeep Kumar of Services clinching gold in the F62/F64 category with a throw of 44.00m, while Rakesh (Services) dominated the F42/F43/F44 category with a winning distance of 49.52m.

**Other winners: Men: 5000m: T13:** Rajesh Yadav (Raj) 16:26.75s; **5000m:** T12: M.S. Sharath (Kar) 15.50.49s; **discus: F11:** Monu Ghangas (Har) 34.69s; **F52:** Karan Singh (Raj) 13.45m; **shot put:** F56: Kuldeep Singh (Del) 10.96m.
**Women: Javelin: F12:** Gangavva Neelappa Hari (Kar) 23.55m; **F53:** Kanchan Lakhani (Har) 8.39m; **long jump: T20:** Bhuvi Agarwal (Har) 4.17m; **T45/46/47:** C.S. Nimisha (T46, Guj) 5.12m.

Mbappe celebrates. AFP

### Madrid routs Man City

**Agence France-Presse**
PARIS

Real Madrid swept Manchester City aside to qualify for the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday.

Kylian Mbappe's hat-trick helped Real win the return leg of the play-off tie 3-1 to complete a 6-3 aggregate victory.

**The results:** Borussia Dortmund 0 drew with Sporting Lisbon 0 (*Dortmund wins 3-0 on aggregate*); PSV Eindhoven 3 (Perisic 53, Saibari 74, Flamingo 98) bt Juventus 1 (Weah 63) (*After extra time: PSV wins 4-3 on aggregate*); PSG 7 (Barcola 20, Kvaratskhelia 39, Vitinha 59, Doue 64, Nuno Mendes 69, Ramos 76, Mayulu 86) bt Brest 0 (*PSG wins 10-0 on aggregate*); Real Madrid 3 (Mbappe 4, 33, 61) bt Manchester City 1 (Gonzalez 90+2) (*Real wins 6-3 on aggregate*).

## Another chance for BFC to keep its quest for ISL playoffs alive

**Sports Bureau**

After snapping a six-game winless run with a 3-0 win over Jamshedpur FC, Bengaluru FC will look to build momentum in its quest for a ISL playoffs spot when it meets NorthEast United FC in Shillong on Friday.

BFC is currently in sixth place – the last playoffs position – with 31 points, two spots below the host NorthEast (32 points), which has played a game more.

"This season has been one with ups and downs," said head coach Gerard Zaragoza, ahead of the match. "We started well, but struggled for a few matches in January. We need to work on our consistency. I am sure we can do well in our last four games and finish well."

NorthEast, which is also in contention for a playoffs berth, will bank on the goal-scoring exploits of forward Alaaeddine Ajaraie. The Moroccan, who netted a brace in the reverse fixture, is the top-scorer in the league this season with a whopping 20 goals. The BFC defence will have its task cut out.

LIVE TELECAST

**Ranji Trophy**: semifinals, day 5, JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
**Champions Trophy**: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.
**Hockey**: Pro League, Women, India vs Germany, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 5.15 p.m.; Men, India vs Ireland, 7.30 p.m.
**WPL**: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**ISL**: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**Bundesliga**: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
**Serie A**: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
**LaLiga**: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

## SNAPSHOTS

**On top:** Zoza SA poses with its trophy.

**Triumphant:** FC Agniputhra that won the Super Division title.

### Yuki & Dodig beat top seeds Arevalo & Pavic

DOHA: Yuki Bhambri and Ivan Dodig knocked out the top seeds Marcelo Arevalo and Mate Pavic 2-6, 6-3, [10-8] in the doubles quarterfinals of the $3,035,960 ATP tennis tournament on Thursday.

**Other result:**
Julian Cash & Lloyd Glasspoool (GBR) bt Rohan Bopanna & Nuno Borges (Por) 6-4, 6-7(5), [10-7].

### Jamshedpur FC seals playoff slot

KOLKATA: Jamshedpur FC secured a playoff spot with a 2-0 win over host Mohammedan Sporting SC in the ISL in Kolkata on Thursday.

**The result:**
Mohammedan Sporting SC 0 lost to Jamshedpur FC 2 (Ritwik Das 6, Nikhil Barla 82).

### Zoza SA claims A division title

BENGALURU: Zoza Sports Academy emerged as the KSHA-BHA 'A' division hockey tournament champion.

Tied with Sandeep HC on seven points, Zoza SA took the title on the basis of a better goal-difference.

Zoza SA received ₹30,000, while Sandeep HC won ₹20,000.

### Super Division football crown for Agniputhra

FC Agniputhra claimed the BDFA Super Division football league title on the back of an exciting final round of results on Thursday.

In the first match, FC Agniputhra did its part by easing past ASC & Centre FC 3-0. Kickstart FC needed to win against Bengaluru FC to snatch the title, but faltered with a 2-2 draw.

Kickstart FC came agonisingly close to sealing the trophy, as it led 2-1. Deep into injury time, however, a goal from BFC's Conny Fernandes thwarted Kickstart's hopes.

FC Agniputhra (42 points) finished ahead of Kickstart (40 points) and FC Bengaluru United (38 points).

**The results:**
FC Agniputhra 3 (Azfar Noorani 31, Aasif Moideen 34, Nithin Paul 56) bt ASC & Centre FC 0; BFC 2 (Kelvin Singh 72, Conny Fernandes 90+7) drew with Kickstart FC 2 (T. Vijay 25, Borish Singh 78).

**Individual awards: Best goalkeeper:** P. Prashobh (MEG & Centre FC); **Best defender:** Ahmed Faiz Khan (Agniputhra); **Best midfielder:** Soham Varshneya (BFC).

**Player of the tournament and top goal scorer:** Abhishekh Shankar (Kickstart, 16 goals).

### Wild cards for Manas, Ramkumar, Prajwal for Bengaluru Challenger

Teenaged Manas Dhamne, Ramkumar Ramanathan and S.D. Prajwal Dev were awarded singles wildcards for the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger that begins on February 24 at the KSLTA courts.

Dhamne, 17, is ranked 793 in the World while 30-year-old Ramkumar is 436th. Prajwal Dev, the 28-year-old from Karnataka, is 782nd in the ATP singles rankings.